

**Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences**

**HSS Student Bursary Project Advert 2023/24**

**Project title:**

Eyewitness to the 1921-23 Famine in Russia and Ukraine: Archival Research

**Summary/explanation of the project:**

To copy and transcribe those parts of the Harry Stevens Archive (UCL-SSEES Library) relevant to his experiences in Russia and Ukraine in 1921-23.

**Project lead:**

Jeremy Hicks

School of Languages, Linguistics and Film

[j.g.hicks@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:j.g.hicks@qmul.ac.uk)

**Relationship between this project and your research or scholarship:**

This research will be part of my research into depictions of the 1921-23 depictions of the famine in Russia and Ukraine, by investigating the figure of Harry Stevens, who worked with the Polish, Russian and joint British and American Units of the Friends (i.e. Quakers') War Victims' Relief Committee on a number of aid projects based in Warsaw, Minsk, Buzuluk and Moscow and wrote articles and lectured on his experiences. It will enrich the account I am producing of the relief efforts, the film made of them by the Quakers, and the ways in which they were memorialised directly in the contemporary media and influenced subsequent understandings of the Soviet Union.

I received a BA Small Research Grant of £10,000 which came to an end in August 2023, and am applying for institutionally funded leave and externally funded leave from the Leverhulme trust in 2024-25 to complete a book manuscript by the end of the calendar year of 2025 for publication by the end of the REF census period of 2027. While this will be the primary publication arising from this research, should the student find interesting and relevant things relating to Stevens' activities working for the Society for Cultural Relations with the USSR, of which he was a member and in promoting Soviet film, they may become part of spin-off publications (especially as the 2024 is the SCR centenary).

**Project work and outcomes:**

The student will be carrying out archival research in SSEES-UCL Library Special Collections: identifying relevant documents, reading and photographing them, and subsequently transcribing them and ensuring that these records are all cross referenced carefully with the archival identifiers

<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/library/ssees-archives/ste.htm>

**Student skills and knowledge required:**

Knowledge of the context of Russian history, particularly the Revolution and Civil War, would be a great advantage as it would help the student to identify relevant documents.

The correspondence is mostly in English, but some knowledge of Russian would be helpful.

**Start date and work pattern:****Start Date**

- The proposed start date for the UG project is the exam period, 8 January 2024

**Pattern of Work**

- The student is anticipated to complete the activity within no more than 38 hours (£500 award). Following emails written by Hicks to the relevant archives, the student will complete a number of day-long archival trips, followed by writing up days. Flexibility of the balance between archive days and transcription is possible, depending on the extent of the relevant findings
- 3 one-day trips to UCL-SSEES Library, Euston/Euston Square Underground (23 hours).
  - Student to photograph all relevant documents and match all photographs to archival record numbers
- 2 days transcribing and ordering of results (15 hours)
  - Student to write up the various articles and correspondence from the photographs and order the results clearly according to the norms for archival citations

**Arrangements for briefing and monitoring the student**

- Week commencing 8 January initial 1-1 consultation
- Following 1<sup>st</sup> day's archival work, a one-to-one consultation to assess the extent of relevant findings.
- Following 3<sup>rd</sup> day of archival work, one to one consultation to agree what transcription activities need to be prioritised.
- Following final day, one to one consultation to discuss what has been achieved and how it will be used.

Students must submit applications to Alicia Barnes, Research Officer ([a.barnes@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:a.barnes@qmul.ac.uk)) by **12 noon on 1 December 2023**.

We anticipate that funding will be disbursed in two instalments, both subject to confirmation by the academic project lead that the student has been working appropriately.

The first instalment (40% of the award) will be paid no earlier than the end of February 2024; the second (60% of the award) will be paid upon overall completion.