**UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD
HUMANITIES DIVISION**

**Academic Champion for Knowledge Exchange, Impact and Innovation**

**Background**

Knowledge Exchange, impact, and innovation are of increasing significance for research in the Humanities and this role will develop the excellent work supported by the Division’s KE Champions, based in TORCH, over the past six years. Best defined as the mutually beneficial sharing of ideas, data, experience, and expertise, Knowledge Exchange involves collaboration between researchers, external organisations, and the wider public. This new Academic Champion role will provide academic leadership within the interlocking areas of KE, innovation, and impact, representing Humanities’ perspectives in the relevant University-level committees, especially around the new national [KE Concordat](https://www.keconcordat.ac.uk/) and [Framework](https://re.ukri.org/knowledge-exchange/knowledge-exchange-framework/). They will lead a division-wide discussion on how innovation can be fostered within humanities disciplines; will lead on the developing strategy for business engagement and creative partnerships of all kinds; and work to foster further engagement with the regional and local enterprise initiatives taking place across and beyond the University, for instance in the cultural, heritage, and creative industries. Working with faculties to support local strategies for impact and evaluation of research, they will also work through TORCH to engage Humanities colleagues in a cross-disciplinary, University-wide discussion of the University’s approach to innovation, especially its intersection with policy and community/ies, and place-making, both in the local Oxfordshire region and at an international scale.

Launched in May 2013, TORCH (The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities) stimulates, supports and promotes research activity of the very highest quality that transcends disciplinary and institutional boundaries and engages with wider and public audiences. The TORCH Director is supported by two academic ‘Champions’ released part-time from their teaching duties to support the ongoing development of TORCH: in Knowledge Exchange (this role), and Academic Networks and Partnerships (currently Dr María del Pilar Blanco). As part of this team, the new Academic Champion for KE, Innovation, and Impact will also be integral to the developing work of the Humanities Cultural Programme, one of the founding stones of the Schwarzman Centre project.

**Main duties of the role**

Reporting to the Associate Head (Research), working with Faculty Research Directors to develop the impact element of the role, and with the TORCH Director, who has primary responsibility for Knowledge Exchange, and fostering innovation with both, the Academic Champion will:

1. advise, in consultation with both the TORCH Director and the Associate Head (Research), the Humanities Research Committee, the divisional officers, faculties, individual academics and other staff on developing an approach to KE, Impact, and Innovation consistent across the Humanities Division,
2. support faculties to develop effective impact and KE strategies, both within faculties and across the Division,
3. explore how ‘innovation’ is intrinsic to humanities research and academic practices; including, where appropriate, making external connections with the Local Enterprise Partnership and with international partners, managing and sustaining a regional and international presence,
4. work closely with the TORCH Director in the identification and selection of TORCH KE fellowships, and the allocation of KE funding,
5. act as advocate for heritage, and a wide range of creative industries partnerships, and to tie partnerships firmly back to academic activity/research in faculties and across the University
6. serve as one of Division’s nominated members of the University Research and Innovation committee, its KE and Impact sub-committee (KEISC) and the Oxford Innovation District Advisory Group (OIDAG) and as an *ex officio* member of Humanities Research and TORCH Management Committees

The Champion is supported by an experienced professional services team, based both in TORCH and in the Humanities Divisional Office.

Deadline for applications: **noon 12 April**

**Selection Criteria**

1. A doctorate or equivalent in a Humanities field.
2. A research profile of international standing in a humanities field, with evidence of leading groups of researchers, and/or working collaboratively.
3. A strong track record of, and interest in, knowledge exchange and mutually beneficial partnerships.
4. Familiarity with Knowledge Exchange and impact in the Humanities within the national and international higher education contexts and particularly in relation to research and innovation.

**Terms and conditions**

The position is open only to internal candidates. For joint postholders, the appointment would be subject to approval by the postholder’s faculty and college.

The appointee’s underlying University contract of employment, and its associated terms and conditions, will remain in place during the appointment. The appointment will be for a period of two years (with an option to extend for a third year), which includes an initial probationary period of one year. Should the appointee wish to terminate the appointment prior to the end of the two-year period, the length of notice required shall be at least one month during the probationary period and three months thereafter. The Deputy Head of the Humanities Division may request that the appointment be terminated, and the notice period will be at least one month during the probationary period and three months thereafter.

The following arrangements are offered:

* Support to cover the costs of the equivalent of half a teaching buy-out (exact costs to be specified).
* Deferral of sabbatical leave due during the period of office, if not to do so would involve loss of entitlement.

The specific package of support will be agreed between the Deputy Head of Division and the office holder.

**How to apply**

Applicants should submit a curriculum vitae and covering letter, stating how they meet the criteria for the post and how they would expect to meet the responsibilities of the role. Where applicable, candidates are asked to indicate that their college will support their release from teaching duties. The curriculum vitae should include qualifications, an up-to-date select list of significant publications, current and planned research activity, and details of two referees (who will be contacted for shortlisted candidates). For applicants who are shortlisted, two letters of reference and one or more interviews will be required.

Applications should be submitted electronically **by 12 April** to Kathryn Boyd-Miller, kathryn.boyd-miller@humanities.ox.ac.uk. Interviews will be held in the w/c 19 April.

If you wish to discuss the role, please contact Daniel Grimley, Deputy Head of Division, Humanities Division (daniel.grimley@music.ox.ac.uk) or Wes Williams, Director of TORCH (wes.williams@seh.ox.ac.uk).

January 2021