



# Post-Doctoral Research Fellow:

Journalism and Democracy

**Department of Journalism**  
**School of Communication & Creativity**

April 2025



Role Profile	
<b>Post:</b>	Post-Doctoral Research Fellow
<b>Department:</b>	Department of Journalism
<b>School:</b>	School of Communication and Creativity
<b>Grade:</b>	6
<b>Tenure:</b>	Full time with funding for 24 months
<b>Responsible to:</b>	Professor Mel Bunce

## Context

The Research Fellow role is situated within the Department of Journalism at City St George's, University of London. The Journalism Department has been a leader in its field since 1976, and is ranked number one in the UK for Journalism (Guardian University Guide 2023) and number one in the UK for graduate outcomes in Communication and Media (Complete University Guide 2024). Based in the centre of London, the Department has a lively research community, strong industry links, and regular high-profile events.

## Job Purpose

The research fellow will play a central role in a research project about independent journalism and democracy. This project is funded by an ESRC / Trans-Atlantic Partnership Grant and it has teams of leading researchers in Canada, the UK, Brazil, and South Africa.

[Details of the EDIT research project](#)

[Details of the EDIT researchers](#)

The research fellow will be on "Team UK" working with Professor Mel Bunce and Dr Richard Fletcher, and a research assistant. The fellow will do literature reviews, run interviews and focus groups, pitch and develop conference presentations, journal articles and other outputs, attend international conferences, and be an active member of our international research team.

This job offers many opportunities for professional development and mentorship, including collaborative working on academic publications and conference presentations, and the chance to collaborate with, and learn from, a network of top international scholars.

While this is a research position, if the successful applicant is interested, we can also offer opportunities to develop skills and experience in teaching, supervision, leadership, and other related academic skills.

## Main Responsibilities

The successful candidate is expected to contribute to the following main duties:

- Produce a systematic literature review looking at how academics have defined and studies independent journalism in the United Kingdom
- Run focus groups and interviews with citizens, journalists, editors and journalism funders
- Draft journal articles / chapters – working with the research team
- Prepare conference presentations and other outputs
- Actively participating in the international research group, as well as the research community at City St George's, University of London.

## Additional information

- The post holder must at all times carry out their responsibilities with due regard to City St George's, University of London's Equal Opportunities Statement.
- The post holder must accept responsibility for ensuring that the policies and procedures relating to Health and Safety in the workplace are adhered to at all times.
- The post holder must respect the confidentiality of data stored electronically and by other means in line with General Data Protection Regulation 2018 (GDPR) the Data Protection Act 2018.
- The post holder must carry out their responsibilities with due regard to the non-smoking environment of City St George's, University of London.
- Workplace values

The post holder will be expected to operate in line with City St George's workplace values which are:

- We care
- We learn
- We act

- Sustainable Development  
City St George's, University of London is committed to a policy of best practice to assist in building a sustainable way of life by taking a positive, solutions-orientated approach. All post holders are encouraged to contribute through their roles to improving the environment for City St George's and the wider community.

Details of policy, information and staff development supporting the policy on the environment and sustainability can be found at [www.city.ac.uk/green-policies](http://www.city.ac.uk/green-policies).

The above list is not exclusive or exhaustive and the post holder will be required to undertake such duties as may reasonably be expected within the scope and grading of the post. All members of staff are required to be professional, co-operative and flexible in line with the needs of the post, Department, School and City St George's, University of London.

### **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Statement (EDI)**

City St George's, University of London is committed to promoting equality, diversity and inclusion in all its activities, processes, and culture for our whole community, including staff, students and visitors.

The university will meet its obligations under the Equality Act 2010 in recruitment and seek to eliminate discrimination on the basis of age, caring responsibilities, disability, gender identity, gender reassignment, marital status, nationality, pregnancy, race and ethnic origin, religion and belief, sex, sexual orientation and socio-economic background.

Selection and promotion criteria are kept under review to ensure that individuals are treated on the basis of the job requirements and on their relevant personal merits; and are not disadvantaged by conditions or requirements which cannot be shown to be justifiable. City St George's operates a guaranteed interview scheme for disabled applicants.

Person Specification	
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Criteria	Essential (E) or Desirable (D)	Method(s) of Assessment: Application (A), Interview (I) or Exercise (E)
<b>Qualifications and Knowledge</b>		
A PhD in Journalism, Media, Communications, Politics, Sociology or a closely related field.	E	A, I
In-depth understanding of key theories, debates, and methodologies in communication and journalism research.	E	A, I
A good understanding of the journalism landscape in the United Kingdom	D	A, I
<b>Experience</b>		
Conducting independent, high-quality research - including designing and executing research projects. Ideally with experience with interviews and focus groups, and the software NVivo.	E	A, I
Writing systematic literature reviews	E	A, I
Experience writing chapters / journal articles / books for peer reviewed scholarly.	D	A, I
Experience in effectively communicating research findings to diverse audiences, including academics, policymakers, and the general public.	D	A, I
<b>Skills and Abilities</b>		
Excellent communication and presentation skills.	E	A, I
Strong organisational and administrative skills.	E	A, I
Commitment to equality and diversity and City St George's values	E	A, I
A good team player	E	A, I
The ability to use own initiative	E	A, I

# Salary and Conditions of Service

The salient features of conditions of service for Research staff are as follows:

- Salary will be within the range of £42,882 to £44,128 per annum on Grade 6 of the salary scales for Research staff.
- Annual Leave is 30 days, plus 8 statutory and 4 additional days during the Christmas holiday period.
- **This post has funding for 24 Months**
- Automatic entry into the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS) with the option to opt out.
- All offers of appointment are subject to City St George's receiving satisfactory references and medical clearance.
- All posts at City St George's are subject to reasonable adjustment under the Equalities Act (2010).
- All appointments at City St George's are subject to a probationary period.
- The appointment is terminable by three months' notice on either side.

## Applications

When preparing your application, you should address carefully the post details enclosed and in particular the qualities outlined in the Person Specification. Please include examples where appropriate.

**All applications must be received by the advertised deadline.**

## Further Information

City St George's operates a no-smoking policy.

City St George's offers an excellent pension scheme, generous leave allowance, season ticket loan, a good working environment and access to fitness and social facilities.

City St George's confirms its commitment to equal opportunities in all its activities. It is intended that no job applicant or employee will receive less favourable treatment on the grounds of political belief, sex, sexual orientation, disability, marital status, race, nationality, ethnic origin, religion or social class. Selection and promotion criteria are kept under review to ensure that individuals are treated on the basis of the job requirements and on their relevant personal merits; and are not disadvantaged by conditions or requirements which cannot be shown to be justifiable.

If you have a disability and are interested in this post, City St George's welcomes your application. For an informal discussion you may wish to contact the Recruitment Team on:

Telephone: 020 7040 3085  
E-mail: [recruit@city.ac.uk](mailto:recruit@city.ac.uk)