AMGUEDDFA CYMRU

Honorary Research Fellow

Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales

Point of contact: Head of Research

Part of the Collections and Research Division

Background to the Honorary Research Fellowships...

The title Honorary Research Fellow (HRF) is awarded to individuals in recognition of the valuable contribution they make to the research culture of an organisation. Honorary Fellowships are unpaid but include benefits such as full access to facilities that would be limited for the general public, support in applying for funding and publishing research and opportunities to participate in events such as research seminars and away days that might be closed to people outside the organisation.

Historically HRFs have been reserved for those following a traditional academic, curatorial or research career. As part of our commitment to making sure that everyone is represented we are changing our approach. We want to ensure a good balance between HRFs with traditional research training and those who bring different kinds of experience.

We currently host 45 HRFs who bring a great deal of complimentary knowledge and experience to our curatorial teams. They have full access to all of our collections, archives, libraries and research facilities. They often work in collaboration with Amguaddfa Cymru staff to conduct research on our collections that could not be done elsewhere.

We have conducted a review of our current HRF scheme and are now inviting a new round of applications. We are taking this approach because we want to make sure that in future this group can truly reflect the interests of the people of Wales. Fellowships will initially run for a period of two years with the option to renew for a further two years following an internal review process. Existing Fellows will need to re-apply.

Recruitment will take place in two rounds. During this first round we are aiming to recruit up to 25 HRFs. We will run a second recruitment round to for a further 20 HRFs in Spring 2023.

Research at Amgueddfa Cymru...

Amgueddfa Cymru is committed to undertaking high quality research across the natural sciences, social sciences, arts and humanities. We have identified research as a key enabler to better understand our collections, improve visitor experience and support our move towards net zero carbon operation. As the only Independent Research Organisation in Wales we use the unique elements of our collections to deliver research that others cannot. The breadth of our expertise across all 8 of our sites allows us to conduct participatory research with communities that benefits everyone in Wales.

Amgueddfa Cymru is developing a new research strategy with the key pillars of active participation, telling new stories, excellent science, sharing collections, and global impact. Participatory research will underpin our ambition to be an inclusive, socially responsible museum shaping our collections and exhibitions to ensure that everyone is represented.

We recognise the value of fresh thinking and transferable skills, and value lived experience as a form of expertise. We are open to applications from people who are following a non-traditional route into research. We are particularly interested in hearing from people who would like to tell new stories about the objects in our collections. We hope that in renewing our approach to the HRF scheme we can strike a better balance between the number of fellows from more traditional academic and curatorial backgrounds and those with new approaches and skills developed through other career pathways and experiences.

What we offer...

- Access to our collections, archives and libraries
- Hot desk facilities at one of our 8 sites
- Access to our new UKRI funded laboratory facilities
- Regular opportunities to share and discuss research findings with other Fellows and museum staff in a friendly and supportive atmosphere.
- An Amgueddfa Cymru Research Fellow email account
- Being part of the Amgueddfa Cymru Research programme with access to all our research seminars and symposia.
- Support and advice in applying for funding and/or publishing your research
- Opportunities for those new to research to develop their skills through mentoring by more experienced fellows and members of staff.

What we are looking for...

- Projects that need access to our collections and archives in order to succeed
- Your unique insight and knowledge within your research area
- Active contributions to the delivery of the Amgueddfa Research Strategy
- Participation in our regular seminars and workshops with staff and other Fellows
- Mentoring museum staff and less experienced research fellows in their research projects where appropriate
- Supporting the delivery of our public programmes such as exhibitions and community engagement where appropriate
- Being an advocate for Amgueddfa Cymru and its work.
- Unfortunately we cannot commit to projects that are primarily focused on collecting new material or delivering exhibitions that have not had prior approval.

Application process and guidance...

You can apply to become one of our Honorary Research Fellows by completing the online form or recording your answers to the questions in a short video or audio file.

Click here for online application form

If you have further questions or would like to discuss the suitability of your research idea we would love to hear from you. Please email Jenny or Gemma at research@museumwales.ac.uk with any questions or to arrange a time to discuss your ideas.

If you need any support in making your application or have any accessibility requirements please let us know.

Strategy 2030 | Museum Wales

AMGUEDDFA CYMRU

Honorary Research Fellow Application Questions

Name
Pronouns (optional)
Address
Email
Phone number
Preferred method of communication: email / phone call / text message
Please tell us about yourself and why you would like to be a Research Fellow at Amgueddfa Cymru. (Max 300 words)
Tell us about your primary research interests and the areas of our collections that you would like to focus on. (Max 300 words)
How do you think Amgueddfa Cymru can support you to develop and deliver your research project(s)?
How do you think your work fits in with what we have described within our Strategy 2030? Strategy 2030 | Museum Wales
What kind of facilities will you need as a Research Fellow (e.g. Access to collections, archives, labs etc).
If you require hot desk facilities, at which of our 8 sites would you like to be based? (NB. The sites include our National Collections Centre at Nantgarw).
Is there anything else that you need from us to support your work such as specific access requirements, prayer room etc.

Is there anything else that you think it might be useful for us to know about you?