## JOB DESCRIPTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Job Title:</strong></th>
<th>Postdoctoral Research Assistant, Understanding Statehood through Architecture: a comparative study of Africa's state buildings (ASA)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Department / Unit:</strong></td>
<td>Politics and International Relations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Job type:</strong></td>
<td>Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grade:</strong></td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Accountable to:</strong></td>
<td>Project PI</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Purpose of the Post

The Postdoctoral Research Assistant will carry out a sub-project as part of the ERC-funded ASA project, based in the Department of Politics and International Relations at Royal Holloway, University of London.

### Key Tasks

1. Pursue their own independent research project within the parameters of the project under the direction of the PI, including conducting fieldwork in Africa.

2. Contribute information, blogs and news items on their research to the project website.

3. Help organise project workshops and exhibitions in the UK and Africa.

4. Attend academic conferences to present their work, and establish relationships with relevant networks of scholars.

5. Write and publish articles and books independently and in collaboration with other members of the project team.

6. Working with members of the team, edit a special issue on broader contributions to the project.

### Main Contacts

Main contacts are the Project PI, other members of the project team and project manager, colleagues within the Department of Politics and International Relations and across the College, and academics in the field in other institutions.
**Research Remit of the Post**

**Postdoctoral Research Assistant 1 (regional politics)**
The project focuses on regional politics in Africa, through a study of the African Union building in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) and regional headquarter buildings including those in Abuja (Nigeria), Arusha (Tanzania) and Gaborone (Botswana). The project will explore questions around regional cooperation and pan-Africanism, intended to ask how do regional buildings enact and reshape domestic, regional and pan-African identities? Working within these broad parameters, the RA will be encouraged, in consultation with the PI, to refashion and push the project in their own direction.

**Postdoctoral Research Assistant 2 (international politics)**
The project focuses on international politics, exploring how African countries project themselves through their airport buildings, often important prestige projects, symbolic as well as substantive gates to the wider world. Examples could include Nairobi (Kenya), the very cramped interchange hub of the continent, Mogadishu (Somalia), the only part of the Somali capital safe enough to conduct international state business, and Cape Town’s state of the art airport built at controversially high cost to show South Africa off to the world during the World Cup. The project will explore questions around how airports are designed and built to impress visitors with a sense of the country they are entering. Working within these broad parameters, the RA will be encouraged, in consultation with the PI, to refashion and push the project in their own direction.

A research, travel and training budget is attached to each post.

Royal Holloway is committed to employer development and offers opportunities for training and a mentoring scheme for all employees.

**Other Duties**
The duties listed are not exhaustive and may be varied from time to time as dictated by the changing needs of the College. The post holder will be expected to undertake other duties as appropriate and as requested by his/her manager.

The post holder may be required to work at any of the locations at which the business of Royal Holloway is conducted.