THE BEYOND 2022 RESEARCH PROJECT
Archival Discovery at
The National Archives of the United Kingdom (TNA),
London

Post title: Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Early Modern History (c.1500–c.1800)

Job Posted: 20 December 2019

Closing Date for Applications: Monday, 20 January 2020 at 5pm

Contract Type: Specific Purpose Research Contract (Fixed Term, Whole-Time)

Post Duration: 24 months from 1 April 2020

Academic Unit: The Department of History, School of Histories and Humanities, Trinity College Dublin.

Salary: €37,223 p.a. (IUA Salary Scale: Level 2, Point 1)¹

Position Summary
The Beyond 2022: Ireland's Virtual Record Treasury Research Project is an all-island and international collaboration funded by the Government of Ireland, through the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, under the Project Ireland 2040 framework.

¹ The successful applicant will be employed by Trinity College Dublin and remuneration will be made in Euro. The project will provide expenses by reimbursement for agreed project-related travel including research, collaboration and dissemination activities.
Based in the Trinity College Dublin, Beyond 2022 seeks to re-imagine and re-create through virtual reality the Public Record Office of Ireland building and its archival collections, which were destroyed in the opening engagement of the Irish Civil War. The resource created by the Project will be an open-access virtual archive.

The National Archives of the United Kingdom [hereafter TNA] is a core partner in the Beyond 2022 project, along with the other core partners

- National Archives of Ireland
- Public Record Office of Northern Ireland
- Irish Manuscripts Commission
- Trinity College Dublin Library

and a range of over 30 participating institutions.

Through this collaboration, the project seeks to locate and identify archival materials relevant to the project’s ambition to reconstruct, to the greatest extent possible, the collections destroyed in 1922.

Beyond 2022 is seeking an exceptional archival and historical researcher, to be based in London at TNA, working within the project’s Archival Discovery work package.

The successful applicant will work under the direction of Dr Peter Crooks (Programme Director/Principal Investigator) and Dr Neil Johnston (TNA Co-Investigator). The successful candidate will be employed in parallel with two other ‘Archival Discovery’ Postdoctoral Research Fellows, one based at Trinity College Dublin and another in the Public Record Office Northern Ireland. Within TNA, the successful applicant will be attached to the TNA Collections and Engagement Department. It will be expected that they will be active in presenting their research internally at TNA as well as to its public audiences. They will also contribute to developing engagement opportunities related to Beyond 2022.
Archival Discovery Work Package: Overview

The Archival Discovery work package within Beyond 2022 seeks to identify materials that can replace the documents destroyed in the Four Courts blaze in 1922, replenishing the destroyed Record Treasury to a greater extent than ever imagined.

The objectives of this work package are:

- to create an inventory of loss and survival from the 1922 fire
- to identify and scope replacement collections in libraries and archival repositories across the world
- to identify, in collaboration with curators and conservators, collections in these repositories requiring conservation and prioritize those suitable for enhanced digitization
- to create metadata descriptions of salved and replacement sources to be included in the Beyond 2022 database
- to connect these metadata descriptions of replacement collections to the database entries for destroyed records

Role of the Research Fellow at TNA

Archival Discovery involves the enhancement of the known and, more importantly, discovery of the unknown. The successful applicant will have expert archival research skills to explore relevant UK archives to identify replacement material, create suitable descriptions and fully contextualise the importance of any discoveries. In essence, the project aims to find, describe and contextualize.

At TNA, the candidate will work with Dr Neil Johnston and other TNA record specialists to identify Irish and Irish-related records held in repositories in the United Kingdom, primarily at TNA and the Greater London Area. As there was no Irish Office at Whitehall in the Early Modern period, many of the relevant records were not arranged into distinctly Irish series but appear as part of the normal workings of royal government, be they related to revenue raising and collection, the
administration of royal justice, or the administration of Ireland from London. Such records, therefore, are not always readily identifiable on repository catalogues.

Working as part of an interdisciplinary and international team, the post-holder will use their specialist archival knowledge to enhance descriptions of previously-identified archival material; to identify and prepare scoping reports on additional potential replacement sets in archives in the UK (primarily within the Greater London Area); to develop publications that contextualize and interpret relevant archival materials and record-keeping practices; to generate metadata, to the project’s specifications, to enable digitized manuscripts and archives to be ingested into the Virtual Record Treasury and made accessible through the IIIF (International Image Interoperability Framework).

As a member of the project team, the post-holder will collaborate with the computer scientists on the project to experiment with entity extraction and data linking on the semantic web in order to create metadata and populate Beyond 2022’s Knowledge Base for Irish History, thereby contributing to the development of its standards and protocols. The post-holder will also undertake dissemination and public engagement activities to assist the project in its mission to communicate the importance of its discoveries to the widest possible audience.

**Key Duties and Responsibilities**

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<th>To conduct excellent research at The National Archives (UK) and assist the Principal Investigator and Co-Investigator in the planning, organizing, conducting, and communicating of research within the overall scope of the project.</th>
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<td>To coordinate and perform independent and team-led activities involved in the collection, analysis, documentation and interpretation of information/results.</td>
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<td>To participate in training and other periodic meetings in Dublin and other international venues.</td>
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<td>To present information on research progress and outcomes to others responsible</td>
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for the research project.

To act as a source of information and guidance as required to any support staff and/or research students assisting with the research project, as agreed with the Principal Investigator.

To publish research outputs in peer-reviewed journals, relevant to the wider project, in his/her area of specialist expertise, and to contribute to co-authored publications.

To confer with the Principal Investigator in developing plans for research projects and to discuss the interpretation of results and the preparation of manuscripts for publication.

To perform other related duties incidental to the work described herein.

To contribute to the public engagement components of the project through talks, podcasts, blogs /vlogs, archive workshops

### Selection Criteria

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<td><strong>Essential</strong></td>
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<td>A completed PhD, or evidence that a PhD is close to completion, in a relevant sub-period of Irish or Irish/British history between c.1500 and c.1800</td>
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<td>Sufficient specialist knowledge to conduct high-quality research that identifies previously little known or unknown records that act as replacements for those held by the Public Record Office of Ireland</td>
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<td>Demonstrable competence in Early Modern palaeography</td>
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<td>Research experience with Early Modern record-keeping practice and manuscript sources</td>
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<td>A publication record commensurate with career stage and personal</td>
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### Personal Effectiveness

| Essential | Ability to manage own research and associated activities to meet multiple, competing deadlines |
| Essential | Experience of working constructively within a team to achieve a common goal |
| Essential | Evidence of excellent organisational and communication skills |
| Essential | Ability to work in highly interdisciplinary and international research environments |
| Desirable | Knowledge of image capture, metadata curation and data visualisation |
| Desirable | Evidence of excellent stakeholder management skills and a willingness to represent the project at meetings, conferences and other relevant events |

### Technical Skills

| Essential | High level of IT literacy including the use of word-processor and spreadsheet applications |
| Essential | Excellent report writing and presentation skills |
Background to Beyond 2022

June 30th, 2022, marks the centenary of the terrible explosion and fire at the Four Courts, Dublin, which destroyed the Public Record Office of Ireland (PROI) and, with it, seven centuries of Ireland’s collective memories. While incomparable with the loss of human life, the destruction of the Record Treasury at the PROI was one of the great tragedies of the Civil War.

Beyond 2022: Ireland’s Virtual Record Treasury is an all-island and international research programme to recreate digitally this lost national treasure. Combining historical research, archival discovery and technical innovation, Beyond 2022 offers a lasting and meaningful legacy from the Decade of Centenaries, democratising access to invaluable records and illuminating seven centuries of Irish history.

The aim of Beyond 2022 is to create and launch on 30 June 2022 a Virtual Record Treasury for Irish history—an open-access, virtual reconstruction of the Record Treasury destroyed at the PROI in 1922. The Virtual Record Treasury will provide an enabling framework for connecting archival collections worldwide and rediscovering our collective national memories.

www.beyond2022.ie
For informal enquiries on the post, candidates should contact:

**Name:** Dr Peter Crooks  
**Title:** Beyond 2022 Programme Director  
**Email Address:** pcrooks@tcd.ie

**To Apply:**  
To apply for this post, please send the following materials to Dr Ciarán Wallace, Deputy Director, Beyond 2022 Project (cwallace@tcd.ie) before the deadline:

- Cover letter (1 page)  
- Research statement **describing** your specialist knowledge of relevant archival collections and **proposing** how you would prioritize your research in TNA to further the vision of Beyond 2022 if offered this position (3pp)  
- Full CV (3 pp) including the names of two referees who may be contacted if you are shortlisted.

**Deadline:** Monday, 20 January 2020 at 5pm (local time)

**Further Particulars:**

- Shortlisted candidates will be invited to present for interview at Trinity College Dublin. It is envisaged that interviews will take place on **13/14 February 2020**.  
- Successful candidates will be required to obtain basic level security clearance in order to work at TNA.