

DAVID ALMOND FELLOWSHIPS

FOR RESEARCH IN CHILDREN'S LITERATURE 2016-2017

Newcastle University's School of English Literature, Language and Linguistics and Seven Stories, National Centre for Children's Books are pleased to announce that the application process for 2016-7 David Almond Fellowships is now open.

Further particulars

The awards recognise both David Almond's contribution to children's literature and his connections with these partner institutions: he is a patron of Seven Stories and an honorary graduate of Newcastle University.

The Fellowships aim to promote high-quality research in the Seven Stories collections that will call attention to their breadth and scholarly potential. The two awards of £300 each are to facilitate a research visit to the Seven Stories collections in Newcastle upon Tyne, UK of at least two days by a bona fide researcher working on a relevant project. Applications will be considered from candidates in any academic discipline. The successful applicants will have a clearly defined project that will benefit from having access to the Seven Stories collections (please see indicative information about the collections below). All applicants should consult the Seven Stories catalogue as part of preparing their applications:

<http://www.sevenstories.org.uk/collection/>. A well-developed dissemination strategy will be an advantage. Priority will be given to the importance of the project and best use of the Seven Stories collections as judged by a senior member of the Children's Literature Unit in the School of English Literature, Language and Linguistics at Newcastle University and a senior member of the Collections team at Seven Stories.

Some previous David Almond Fellows have gone on to take up fully-funded PhD studentships at Newcastle University, others have disseminated their research into the collection through book chapters, peer-reviewed journals and conference papers. One of our former Fellows said of her visit that it was 'a wonderful opportunity to work in the archive of Seven Stories... it is undoubtedly an invaluable asset for researchers internationally, and something the city can be extremely proud of.'

Eligibility for the award

Applicants must hold a first degree or higher from a recognised institution of higher education.

Note: non-EEA applicants are reminded that to take up a Fellowship they must hold an appropriate visa. Neither Newcastle University nor Seven Stories can help with this process. Please see the UK visas website for more information:

<http://www.ukvisas.gov.uk/en/howtoapply>

Responsibilities

Fellowships must be taken up before the end of August, 2017. Recipients are expected to spend at least two days in Newcastle and are encouraged to time their visits to enable them to participate in events organised jointly or separately by the Children's Literature Unit and Seven Stories. (Please note: successful applicants must contact Seven Stories and agree a date for the visit prior to making travel arrangements; normally a minimum of two weeks' notice is required before any research visit.) Acknowledgement of the Fellowships must accompany all dissemination activities arising from the research.

The Seven Stories archives

Seven Stories is the only accredited museum specialising in children's books in the UK. Its collections are a unique resource for original research, particularly insofar as they document aspects of the creation, publication and reception of books for children from the 1930s to the present day. The steadily growing archive contains material from over 250 authors, illustrators, editors, and others involved in the children's publishing industry in Britain.

Researching the Seven Stories collection could enhance a number of research topics. Examples of research areas and relevant collections:

Makers of children's literature: children's book history 1750-2000

Children's books have been under-represented in book history scholarship. Seven Stories' holdings can be used to investigate the forces which have shaped the children's book. Areas of interest include editing and publishing, education and bookselling, diversity and race and changing technologies. Key archival holdings include the David Fickling Collection, the Aidan and Nancy Chambers / Thimble Press Collection, and the Leila Berg Collection.

New adults: the growth of teenage literature

Seven Stories' holdings represent the opportunity to investigate the development of teenage literature from a number of perspectives: holdings include detailed evidence of the process of composition from early draft to published text; evidence of socio-political contexts, and evidence of the publishing contexts. Key archival holdings include the Aidan and Nancy Chambers / Thimble Press Collection, the Diana Wynne Jones Collection, the Philip Pullman Collection, the Beverly Naidoo Collection, and the Geoffrey Trease Collection.

Children on stage: twentieth century children's theatre

Seven Stories holds the complete archive of David Wood, one of the most prolific and influential playwrights for children in Britain. Projects based in this archive may approach the topic of children's theatre from a number of perspectives, including theatre history and adaptation. Other relevant holdings include the Michael Morpurgo Collection and the David Almond Collection.

More information can be found on the Collection pages of the Seven Stories website - <http://www.sevenstories.org.uk/collection>. All of the artwork and manuscript collections are fully catalogued, and the catalogues can be searched online via the link provided on the website. A list of many of the authors and illustrators represented in the collection can be found at: <http://www.sevenstories.org.uk/collection/authors-and-illustrators> (NB this is not a complete list of the collections).

Please see also the Seven Stories Collection Blog:

<http://www.sevenstories.org.uk/news/collections-blog>, containing a variety of articles describing or inspired by the Collection.

Application process

Applicants are asked to submit the following items by 1 December 2016:

- an application form
- a curriculum vitae
- a brief proposal (of 1,000 words maximum)
- one confidential letter of recommendation (sealed and signed; confidential letters may be included in your application packet or recommenders may send them directly)

Applications may be submitted by email or post.

Email: Kim.Reynolds@ncl.ac.uk

Post: David Almond Fellowships
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