

Sévigné PhD Studentship

Information for MPhil/PhD Applicants

For the 2026/2027 academic year, the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures is pleased to offer the Sévigné Studentship to one student wishing to pursue MPhil/PhD in French Studies research. This has been made possible through the generosity of the Gapper Charitable Trust and honouring an alumnus of the College, the late Mr Richard Gapper.

King's College London is committed to the promotion of equality, diversity and inclusion. We especially encourage, therefore, members of marginalised groups to apply.

French Studies in the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures at King's College London

The Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures offers research strengths and opportunities for PhD supervision across all periods of French and Francophone literature and visual culture, French thought and modern French history and politics. Current postgraduate research students are working on topics across the whole range of French studies, and many of our recent PhD graduates have gone on successfully to academic posts or postdoctoral fellowships.

The Department has a vibrant and energetic research culture, in which postgraduate research students are fully involved. In the recent Research Excellence Framework assessment of our research (REF 2021) our research environment was rated 100% 'world-leading' (4*), and research impact was rated 87.5% 'world leading' and 'internationally excellent' (3*).

Eligibility criteria

- For students wishing to pursue the MPhil/PhD in French Studies research at King's College London in 2026/27.
- Open to all students eligible for fees at the Home (UK) rate.

Information about the application

The Studentship is awarded on the basis of scholarly merit and the clear and compelling articulation of the project's research questions and the candidate's rationale for undertaking a PhD. The deadline for applications is **25 August 2026**. The successful applicant will be notified of the outcome by early September 2026.

Value of award

£25,000 a year contribution towards tuition fees, living expenses, and research costs.

Application procedure

To be considered, applicants **MUST**:

- Apply to King's, using the online admissions application portal, for the MPhil/PhD in French Studies Research: <https://www.kcl.ac.uk/study/postgraduate-research/areas/french-research-mphil-phd>

- In the 'Funding' section of your King's Apply application, tick the box at item 5 (Award Scheme Code or Name) and enter the funding code: Sevigne26.

Terms and conditions

- The Sévigné Studentship will be awarded to one student to pursue the MPhil/PhD in French Studies research.
- The value of the award is £25,000 a year for four years' full-time study.
- The Studentship is open to applicants eligible for fees at the Home (UK) rate.
- Applicants must hold an offer of study on a French Studies Research MPhil/PhD, commencing their studies in the autumn semester of 2026.
- The Studentship is to be used for tuition fees, living expenses, and research costs, as the student sees fit.
- If a student does not enrol on the course, the Studentship will be withdrawn and offered to another applicant.

Am I eligible for the Sévigné Studentship?

To be eligible to apply for the Sévigné Studentship, you must:

- have a conditional offer to join the French Studies Research MPhil/PhD at King's College London;
- meet the entry requirements for the above programme;
- be eligible for tuition fees at the Home (UK) rate.

How do I apply for the Sévigné Studentship?

All applicants to the French Studies Research MPhil/PhD will be automatically considered for the Studentship. Please enter the funding code: Sevigne26 in the 'Award Scheme Code or Name' section of the application. The deadline for applying is **25 August 2026**. No further application form is required.

Important information

1. The offer of a Studentship is provisional upon the offer holder accepting and enrolling on the French Studies Research MPhil/PhD at King's College London.
2. The applicant who has been selected for the Studentship will be informed via email. Please note that only the successful applicant will be contacted.
3. Students who withdraw from their studies are not eligible to receive the Studentship and will have the offer withdrawn. Students may interrupt their studies, but any extra costs incurred as a result will not be covered by the studentship.
4. Students may ask permission to defer entry for one year only after which time the offer of a Studentship will be withdrawn.
5. The selection panel will consist of academic and professional services staff. The decision of the panel is final.