



## Visiting Appointments Overview - St Anselm's College, Cambridge

St Anselm's College, Cambridge maintains an active international profile through its Visiting Appointments Scheme, a programme designed to support short-term scholarly residence at selected mathematical libraries and research centres abroad. These appointments are conceived as opportunities for advanced study, archival work, and scholarly collaboration, offering fellows of the College access to world-class resources in environments shaped by leading research cultures. The scheme is intentionally flexible, allowing visiting periods of up to three months, and operates on a bespoke basis through individual arrangements negotiated by St Anselm's College with host institutions.

The Visiting Appointments Scheme supports scholarship in classical pure mathematics, number theory, classical and celestial mechanics, mathematical physics, mathematics education, and the philosophy of mathematics. It is founded upon a commitment to facilitating serious research aligned with the College's intellectual mission: to sustain the classical mathematical tradition in dialogue with contemporary inquiry. Scholars affiliated with St Anselm's may therefore pursue appointments at the mathematical libraries of Cornell University, Michigan State University, Harvard University, and selected universities in Europe with whom the College holds standing or ad hoc collaborative relationships.

### 1. Purpose and Rationale of the Programme

The Visiting Appointments Scheme is intended to provide scholars of the College with opportunities to access specialised resources not available locally, including rare books, digital archives, manuscript collections, and academic networks of particular relevance to classical mathematical research. Many projects in historical geometry, early modern mechanics, algebraic number theory, and mathematics education benefit from access to unique collections preserved in American and European libraries. In addition, the programme supports academic mobility, exposure to diverse research traditions, and the strengthening of international academic partnerships.

The scheme reflects principles found in visiting-scholar policies at universities across the United Kingdom: namely, that visiting appointments should contribute meaningfully to the research aims of the scholar, align with the academic values of the host institution, be of mutual benefit to both institutions, and uphold the highest standards of professional conduct, academic rigour, and intellectual independence.

## **2. Structure of the Visiting Appointment**

Appointments may be undertaken for periods between four weeks and three months. The duration is determined by research necessity, availability of host resources, and the scholar's academic commitments at St Anselm's College. The flexibility of the scheme allows for both tightly focused research visits—such as consultation of specific archival materials—and broader scholarly residencies involving seminars, collaborative discussions, or extended periods of independent study.

Each appointment follows a dual-supervision structure:

Primary supervision is provided by a member of the academic staff at St Anselm's College, who oversees the scholarly coherence of the project, ensures alignment with the College's research ethos, and maintains academic contact during the visit.

Host-institution oversight consists of either library access permissions or, where appropriate, mentorship or ad hoc scholarly support from a researcher or librarian at the host university. The level of host involvement varies by institution and is arranged on a case-by-case basis, depending on the nature of the project and the policies of the particular host.

## **3. Host Institutions and Collaborating Libraries**

### Cornell University

Cornell's Mathematics Library and Kroch Library for Rare and Manuscript Collections maintain extensive holdings in algebra, number theory, analysis, and the history of mathematics. Visiting scholars may access catalogues containing classical treatises, rare monographs, and archival materials relevant to the development of nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century mathematics.

### Michigan State University

Michigan State's mathematical collections, together with resources from its College of Education, provide strong support for research in mathematics education, classical teaching methods, the history of pedagogy, and the development of early educational curricula in geometry and algebra.

### Harvard University

Harvard's vast mathematical libraries—chiefly the Cabot Science Library and the Widener Collection—offer unparalleled access to classical and modern works in geometry, mechanics, number theory, logic, and cosmology. Scholars pursuing historical or conceptual studies benefit particularly from Harvard's special collections relating to early analytic geometry and Newtonian physics.

### Selected European Universities

The College maintains open channels with selected institutions in Europe, including universities in Italy, Germany, Austria, and the Low Countries. These appointments are

arranged individually and often reflect the needs of particular projects, such as studies in Euclidean commentary traditions, medieval transmission of mathematics, or historical mechanics.

#### **4. Eligibility and Application Process**

The Visiting Appointments Scheme is open to academic staff of St Anselm's College, postdoctoral fellows, lecturers and affiliated scholars, and advanced postgraduate researchers (with supervisory approval). Applicants must demonstrate a clear research plan, articulate the necessity of access to the chosen host, and obtain the endorsement of a St Anselm's faculty supervisor. Applications are reviewed by the College's Academic Committee, which evaluates feasibility, academic merit, institutional alignment, and resource availability.

The application typically includes a statement of proposed research, justification for the host institution, timeline, evidence of preparedness, a letter of support from the supervisor, and any correspondence initiated with the host university.

#### **5. Funding, Stipends, and Responsibilities**

While each appointment may qualify for a stipend, funding is not guaranteed. Support depends on donor availability, College resources, and the nature of the research project. Scholars are encouraged to pursue external funding where appropriate. Visiting scholars must conduct themselves in accordance with the academic standards of both St Anselm's and the host university, adhere to library and research policies, maintain regular communication with their supervisor, and produce a brief report or seminar presentation upon return.

#### **6. Benefits of the Programme**

The Visiting Appointments Scheme offers substantial academic advantages: access to premier research collections, exposure to international scholarly networks, opportunities for collaboration, and a structured environment for focused study. For scholars in classical mathematics, these appointments renew a tradition of scholarly travel exemplified by figures such as Euler, Lagrange, and Gauss, while strengthening the College's presence in the global academic community.