

UNIVERSITY OF BERN, SWITZERLAND

**PHD or POST-DOC ASSISTANTSHIP IN  
MIEVEAL ENGLISH STUDIES**

STARTING OCTOBER 2017 (negotiable)

50% appointments with a minimum salary of  
circa CHF 39,437 per year (about £32,000/  
€36,325/ US\$40,545)

**u<sup>b</sup>**

---

**UNIVERSITÄT  
BERN**



Prof. Annette Kern-Stähler is looking to select a **post-doc** or a **doctoral student** (with an MA or equivalent degree) interested in pursuing their post-doc / PhD in medieval English literature and culture under her supervision while working part-time as teaching-cum-research assistant in the Department of English at the University of Bern, Switzerland.

**POSITION**

- 50% PhD assistantship starting October 2017 (or later; negotiable).
- A 50% appointment is equivalent to two and a half days (or 21 hours) a week.
- The duties of an assistant typically include:

**Teaching**

- One and a half courses per year, at BA level. Post-doc assistants may occasionally teach at MA level.
- Courses are either organized as a lecture series or as a seminar, meeting once-a-week for 90 minutes.
- Semesters run for 14 weeks mid-Sep to mid-Dec, mid-Feb to end-May.

**Service**

- Research support for Prof. Kern-Stähler.
- Modest administrative/service duties for the department.
- The rest of the working week is allocated for your own research.

## **SALARY**

- The salary for this position is a minimum of around CHF 39,437 (2014) per year (gross)(i.e. CHF 78,874 pro rata gross).
- Salary is subject to modest annual rises in accordance with Cantonal (i.e. local government) policy.

Salary does not include:

- tuition fees of CHF300 per semester (same for all students regardless of citizenship) (only for PhD candidate);
- personal health insurance (roughly CHF 200 to 300 per month depending on age, etc.). Health insurance is compulsory in Switzerland and is not organized by your employer.

NB: Annual renewal of contract is dependent on satisfactory progress with your doctoral studies/research project, and on the fulfilment of your core teaching/service duties.

## **CONDITIONS**

Doctoral research in Switzerland – like in much of Europe – is thesis-driven and relies on students being mature, self-reliant, motivated, and well organized. You work under the supervision of a dedicated faculty advisor/mentor and are expected to participate in the research culture of your home department and our allied research centres. By the same token, you will find yourself with a lot of freedom, independence and collegiality, quickly becoming a valuable member of the department's academic faculty/staff.

For more information about life (including cost of living) in Bern, see:

[www.unibe.ch/eng/studies/living\\_bern.html](http://www.unibe.ch/eng/studies/living_bern.html)

[www.unibe.ch/eng/studies/doctoral\\_students.html](http://www.unibe.ch/eng/studies/doctoral_students.html)

For more information about the Department of English:

[www.ens.unibe.ch/content/index\\_eng.html](http://www.ens.unibe.ch/content/index_eng.html)

## **REQUIREMENTS AND FURTHER INFORMATION**

- The University of Bern strives to become an equal opportunities employer;
- You must hold an MA (or equivalent) in Medieval Studies or English Literature
- You will need to demonstrate a track record of successful academic study
- You should already have a reasonably well-developed research proposal;
- You should have an outstanding command of written and spoken English; your PhD thesis should be written in English;
- While the administrative (and teaching) language of the Department of English is English, the administrative language of the Faculty and the rest of the University is German, and Bern is a (Swiss)German-speaking city. You should either already have some competence in German, or actively commit to learning German when you arrive. The University of Bern provides courses for learners of German;
- To be eligible for a doctoral assistantship, you must meet the University of Bern's basic admission criteria for doctoral study:  
[www.zib.unibe.ch/content/internationals/bewerbung/doktorat/index\\_eng.html](http://www.zib.unibe.ch/content/internationals/bewerbung/doktorat/index_eng.html)
- Non-Swiss candidates will be responsible for applying for relevant work permits/visas.

## **DEADLINES**

To apply, please submit by **15 August 2017**, the following materials **as a single PDF**:

- a cover letter, motivating your application (addressed to Prof. Kern-Stähler)
- a Curriculum Vitae
- the names and email addresses of two academic referees (no letters needed at this point)
- a research proposal (a minimum of four pages) with bibliography

In addition, please send a representative sample of your academic writing in English (e.g. your MA thesis or a substantial stand-alone paper/essay).

In your cover letter, please explain what your writing sample is and why you have chosen to submit it. Please also explain who your referees are and why you have chosen to ask them for a possible recommendation. Please indicate clearly your citizenship and whether you will be able to begin the assistantship in October 2017. Your materials should be emailed to Prof. Kern-Stähler ([annette.kern-staehler@ens.unibe.ch](mailto:annette.kern-staehler@ens.unibe.ch)). Please feel free to contact her in advance of the deadline if you have any questions about this position.