

# Northern Bridge Doctoral Awards 2013-14 – Guidelines for applicants

## Introduction

The Northern Bridge doctoral partnership is made up by the following universities:

- [Newcastle University](#)
- [Durham University](#)
- [Queen's University Belfast](#)

The duration of doctoral awards is three years full-time and six years for part-time award-holders. All applicants must have at least one year of full-time or two years part time study remaining. Part time students who apply cannot also work full time.

Awards provide successful applicants with a full tuition fee waiver, a maintenance grant set at AHRC's national rate and access to a Research Training Support Grant held centrally by the Northern Bridge Partnership.

Across the NBDTP approximately 50 doctoral awards are available in the 2013/14 competition.

Further information is available at [www.NorthernBridge.ac.uk/studentships](http://www.NorthernBridge.ac.uk/studentships) including the eligibility criteria for candidates. See also the School's website at <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/historical/news/item/new-ahrc-phd-studentships>

## How Candidates Apply

Candidates can only apply to one institution in the NBDTP for an AHRC studentship each year. There are two stages in the application process. In *stage 1* those wishing to apply for a studentship must complete their chosen University's online postgraduate application form and submit all other supporting documentation by 5pm, Monday, 10th February 2014.

**Important:** please quote the code 'AH13' to be considered for the AHRC scholarship

Candidates need to also provide/attach the following additional paperwork:

- a) Current CV;
- b) Research proposal, no longer than 750 words in length (excluding bibliography);
- c) Contact details of two referees; and
- d) Transcripts of previous qualifications.

*Stage 1* of the application process will be completed by the applicant, but it is important they liaise with selectors /potential supervisors at this stage to ensure that the institution concerned has the expertise and capacity to supervise the proposed research. In addition to the above, the candidate should submit a longer research statement (c.1500 words) along with the shorter research proposal needed for the AHRC funding application. This will help the School to make a

decision about the viability, strength and academic rigour of the project, and is part of the basic requirements for securing a PhD place, though it will not be used in decisions about the AHRC funding competition. This document should outline the following: project title; research context; research questions; aims and objectives; methods and approach; timetable; 'why Newcastle?'; references cited/starting bibliography. Candidates for whom English is not their first language will need an IELTS score of 6.5 (with 6.5 in the written component) before they can begin PhD research in Archaeology at Newcastle. It is strongly recommended applicants consult with their prospective supervisors in preparing the research statement and research proposal prior to applying via the online system.

**Deadline:** 5pm, Monday, 10th February 2014 (outcome known by 15<sup>th</sup> April 2014)

**Funding applications will be assessed on the basis of:**

***-the academic record and experience of the applicant***

The applicant is assessed based on the qualifications, experience and references. A master's degree is normally required for doctoral studies, though exceptionally candidates with substantial relevant professional experience can be considered. At least a good 2.1 is required at undergraduate level, exceptionally a good Master's degree and significant relevant work experience may be used to support lower undergraduate performance.

***-the strength of the Research Proposal***

The research proposal should include an outline of the research questions, relevant research in the field, the sources and approach/methodology being used, timetable, and the relevance and wider impact of the research.

***-the fit of the project to the nominated supervisors and research environment***

Those applications that are selected for the next round of the competition will provide a statement on the strength of the supervisory team and the School as a research environment suitable for this research. Applicants should bear in mind the importance of selecting the most appropriate supervisors for their research, and identifying their chosen School as a place able offer the resources, facilities and any training needed to carry out their research. Each PhD is supervised by two supervisors at Newcastle - if necessary, a third supervisor may be chosen from another university in the consortium. Students should consult potential supervisors about their willingness and ability to supervise the proposed research before applying.