

**Collaborative Doctoral Awards
Competition (Staff-led)**



Hi everyone,

I'm pleased to tell you about the following opportunity. Please share the information about this AHRC fully funded PhD in the form of a Collaborative Doctoral Award (CDA), now available via the Northern Bridge Consortium (NBC) Doctoral Training Partnership.

Mapping and Interpreting 90 years of Illustrating and Writing Childhood in the Collection of Seven Stories: The National Centre for Children's Books.

This PhD project will explore changing historical cultural constructions of childhood in books for children, making creative responses to these constructions, and looking at contemporary children's understanding of them. The context is the Seven Stories collection, a major, unique primary resource incorporating material from c.1930 to date, including original artwork and writing by key creators such as Edward Ardizzone, Judith Kerr, Yasmeen Ismail and Nick Sharratt. It will map and respond to key changes in the illustration and writing of childhood in children's books through cultural analysis and creative practice, exploring changing materials, techniques and technologies, and the interaction and collaboration between those involved in the production process.

The PhD candidate will map cultural constructions of childhood during the historical period the collection covers and make creative responses to the materials via practical experimentation regarding illustration and writing in children's books. This will indicate how adults creating books for children depicted and understood childhood and what techniques and practices were involved. Further, the candidate's creative responses will become a stimulus for contemporary children's understanding of children's books, creativity and historical childhoods, so sharing research findings beyond academia.

We are seeking a candidate with a background in Cultural Studies, Childhood Studies or related disciplines who has experience as a creative writer and illustrator. The candidate will be able to work with specialist staff at Seven Stories in archival work, outreach and exhibition curation. Supervision will involve guidance from experts on children's books and other media, and the creation of illustrated poetry, illustrated books and picture books.

To apply please prepare;

- a) a 2-page CV,
- b) a short sample (up to 2,000 words) of creative written work,

(Note: this can be combined with c) in the form of a draft sample from a picturebook, comic, or illustrated book)

c) a PDF portfolio including five to six pieces of indicative artwork,

(Note: this can be combined with b) in the form of a draft sample from a picturebook, comic, or illustrated book)

d) a personal statement of no more than 1000 words indicating preparedness for this project and setting out the contribution that will be made.

Please submit the CV and personal statement to the Northumbria portal

<https://www.northumbria.ac.uk/research/postgraduate-research-degrees/how-to-apply>.

You will need to identify that you are applying for this specific NBC CDA using the code NBC22/GIBSON.

In addition, the portfolio and creative written work should be sent to the principal supervisor Dr Mel Gibson mel.gibson@northumbria.ac.uk, at the same time as the CV and statement are submitted to the Northumbria portal.

Full details of the awards are here <https://www.northumbria.ac.uk/research/postgraduate-research-degrees/studentships/nbc-dtp/> and further information at <http://www.northernbridge.ac.uk/applyforastudentship/cda/>

The deadline for applications is likely to be 10th January 2023 but this is yet to be confirmed.

All candidates who are invited to interview will need to prepare and deliver a 10-minute presentation.

The studentship will be awarded to the successful applicant subject to ratification by the Northern Bridge Consortium studentship committee.

Please contact principal supervisor Dr Mel Gibson with any Expressions of Interest and queries via mel.gibson@northumbria.ac.uk