



Northern Bridge Applicant Masterclass

Maximising your chances of success – Collaborative Doctoral Awards

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Introduction

- ▶ **Purpose and structure of this session:**
- ▶ 1. To hear about the application process from a recent successful application
- ▶ 2. Some tips on how to prepare a strong application
- ▶ 3. Time for specific questions.




Collaborative Doctoral Awards

A CDA is one in which:

- ▶ supervision and training are provided by both a university and a non-university organisation
- ▶ the project is developed by the student in close collaboration with the non-university partner and the university supervisors
- ▶ the non-university organisation benefits from defined outcomes as a result of the student's doctoral research
- ▶ the student normally spends a substantial portion of the period of doctoral study at the non-university organisation.


It is essential that conversations between prospective applicants, the non-university organisation and the university supervisors begin at an early stage. Remember, you will have considerable scope to develop an individual project within the theme specified by the partner.



What makes a strong CDA application?

Generally speaking:

- ▶ An application/project that has clearly been developed with **the partner and its theme at its heart** (i.e. not an afterthought! Make it clear that you could not do the project without this partner).
- ▶ That this is expressed very clearly in **defined outcomes** (try to avoid vague, sweeping statements); e.g. an exhibition, a digital database – whatever it might be.
- ▶ That these outcomes articulate benefits **to you**, and to **the partner**.



What makes a strong CDA application?

- ▶ Evidence that you have engaged with the theme laid out by the partner – remember, this is *your chance* to shape the project to something you are passionate about.
- ▶ Think about the whole course of the life of the PhD – what are your priorities e.g. in training, skills, your career after the PhD? Build this in as much as possible.
- ▶ It is worth going back to the **key objectives** of Northern Bridge too ...



Key objectives of Northern Bridge

- ▶ Prepare award-holders to undertake **world-leading research**;
- ▶ Enhance their **skills and employability**;
- ▶ Address recognized **national skills shortages**;
- ▶ Enable NB students to contribute to our Consortium's identity and direction;
- ▶ Prepare award-holders to be **future leaders**;
- ▶ **Raise the profile** of Arts & Humanities research within our universities and outside them (in our cities, regions, the UK and internationally)

- ▶ **Tell us how you and your project will do these things.**
- ▶ **Do you have a track record/experience – however small – that will support your case?**



Priorities from now to 9 January

Work with your **proposed partner** to develop the strongest possible application. Think about:

- **benefits** of your project to you and to the partner
- is what you are proposing to do **feasible**?
- look at current partnership awards on our website for ideas

Work with your **proposed academic supervisors** to shape:

- the methodology
- the research context
- identify any training you might need to complete the project

- **DRAFT, DRAFT AND DRAFT AGAIN!** 😊



The lived experience ...





Questions ...?

