

The logo for the Northern Bridge Consortium, featuring the text 'NORTHERN BRIDGE CONSORTIUM' in large, bold, black capital letters. To the right of 'BRIDGE' is a horizontal line, and to the right of 'CONSORTIUM' is the text 'DOCTORAL TRAINING PARTNERSHIP' in smaller, black capital letters.

**NORTHERN BRIDGE**  
**CONSORTIUM** DOCTORAL  
TRAINING  
PARTNERSHIP

Applicant Masterclasses 2019

Belfast, 14 November 2018  
Newcastle, 21 November 2018 + 10 December 2018

# Programme for today

1. What is the Northern Bridge Consortium?
2. Awards available
3. Subjects covered
4. Eligibility
5. The application process
6. Maximising your chances of success
7. What we're looking for in applications
8. Key deadlines
9. Questions and Breakout groups

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We are a Doctoral Training Partnership funded by the AHRC to administer PhD studentship funding for five years from 2019 via an annual competition;

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We are **all** the universities in NE England and Northern Ireland: Durham, Newcastle, Northumbria, Queen's, Ulster, Sunderland & Teesside.

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We can fund PGR research in all the AHRC's disciplinary areas (except Scandinavian and Australasian Studies);

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As well as administering the studentship funding, we will run a world-class training programme for our students.

What is the Northern Bridge Consortium?

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Collaboration

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World class research support

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Working outside the academy with partners

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Employability and the future

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Regional development

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Vision & Strategy

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We are a Doctoral Training Partnership, which means we offer much more than funding for PhD students.

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We will host an innovative training programme, with a mix of mandatory events and bespoke optional training.

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We will put out regular calls for training ideas and events from both our students and colleagues;

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We aim to support training for skills suitable for academic and non-academic careers.

Training

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In the Northern Bridge Consortium, every student will have the opportunity to undertake a placement (minimum 21 working days; up to six months).

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This will support their skills development and training, widen their experience and support both academic and non-academic future careers.

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These placements will be fully funded by NBC.

Placements

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The 2019 competition is now open for applications.

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We will be awarding up to 70 studentships per annum, up to 20% of which will be Collaborative Doctoral Awards.

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Successful applicants will receive 3.5 years of fees & stipend funding, plus access to the additional funding streams, including placements. We also fund PhDs part-time.

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Students will have the opportunity to undertake a placement during their programme of study.

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Successful applicants will start their PhDs in October 2019.

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[www.northernbridge.ac.uk](http://www.northernbridge.ac.uk)

2019 Competition overview

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1 October 2018: competition opens, with full information, including CDAs, on the website.

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Wednesday 9 January 2019: all applicants must have applied for a PhD place at their institution.

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Late January/early February 2019: internal sifts take place to decide which applicants will go forward into the competition.

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Wednesday 13 February 2019: nomination forms must be submitted to NBC.

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By 1 March 2019 subject panels will have scored nomination forms.

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During March 2019: Moderation process is completed and the Studentship Committee meets.

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Friday 22 March 2019: results are announced.



# Timeline

## 2. Awards available

- Standard Awards and Collaborative Doctoral Awards.
- Duration of doctoral studentships is 3.5 years for full-time and 7 years for part-time award-holders, though students may apply to extend their period of funded study (though not the candidature of their PhD) by between 21 days and six months (FTE) to undertake a placement.
- All applicants must have at least 18 months of full-time or 3 years of part-time study remaining.
- Part-time students cannot also work full time.

# Interdisciplinary Applications

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We support interdisciplinary applications.

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We ask applicants to limit themselves to indicating TWO disciplines formally although others can be brought out in the project proposal part of the nomination form.

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We would expect to see the interdisciplinarity of any project expressed in the methodologies as well as the research description/questions.

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We would also expect to see supervisory teams that represent & bridge disciplines.

3. Subjects in  
which  
Northern  
Bridge offers  
studentships  
*Panel A =  
History,  
Thought &  
Systems of  
Belief*

- History (including Historical Geography)
- Law and Legal Studies
- Philosophy
- Political Science and International Studies
- Theology, Divinity and Religion

Subjects in  
which  
Northern  
Bridge offers  
studentships  
(ctd.)  
*Panel B =  
Creative &  
Performing  
Arts*

- Fine Art: Practice, History and Theory
- Photography: Practice, History and Theory
- Digital Arts: Practice, History and Theory
- Architecture: Practice, History and Theory
- Film: Practice, History, Theory and Criticism
- Creative Writing
- Music
- Drama and Theatre Studies
- Ethnography and Anthropology

Subjects in  
which  
Northern  
Bridge offers  
studentships  
(ctd.)  
*Panel C =  
Cultures &  
Heritage*

- Museum Studies
- Policy, Arts Management and Creative Industries
- Cultural Geography
- Archaeology
- Classics

Subjects in  
which  
Northern  
Bridge offers  
studentships  
(ctd.)  
*Panel D =  
Languages  
and Literature*

- English Language and Literature
- French Studies
- Hispanic, Portuguese and Latin American Studies
- Interpreting and Translation
- Linguistics
- German Studies
- Italian Studies
- Russian Studies
- Media and Communication Studies

## 4. Eligibility (from the AHRC's Training Grant Funding Guide, Version 1.1, September 2015)

- 'Every student, their subject, course of study, and the RO at which they are studying must meet the eligibility criteria set out in the *Conditions of Research Council Training Grants* and *RCUK Training Grant Guide*, along with any scheme-specific guidance. Information on the AHRC's subject domain can be found in Section 7 of the AHRC's *Research Funding Guide*.'
- 'The decision on eligibility for a full award or fees-only award based on residency must be taken by the award holder in discussion with the RO(s) in the consortium, and in accordance with the Research Councils' Terms and Conditions (TGC 6).'

## 4. Eligibility (from the AHRC's Training Grant Funding Guide, Version 1.1, September 2015)

- 'those applying for a doctoral studentship should normally have, or be studying for, a Master's degree or similar postgraduate qualification. Where a student is studying for a Master's degree or similar postgraduate qualification, they should have met all the course requirements prior to the start date of their AHRC doctoral studentship.'
- 'If a student does not have experience of formal postgraduate study, they may be eligible for a studentship only if they can demonstrate evidence of sustained experience beyond undergraduate degree level that is specifically relevant to their proposed research topic, and could be considered equivalent to Master's study. The RO must have evidence as to how the training and development the student has received is equivalent to that obtained through a Master's course and, therefore, prepares them to continue to doctoral study.'

## 5. The Application Process

### (1) APPLICATION

Applicants apply to ONE of the seven Northern Bridge Consortium universities.

Guidance on how to apply is available at:

[www.northernbridge.ac.uk/apply](http://www.northernbridge.ac.uk/apply)

Applicants need to attach the following paperwork to their application:

- (i) Current CV (2 sides of A4 maximum);
- (ii) Research proposal (check with your subject area contact for word length + bibliography);
- (iii) Contact details of two referees;
- (iv) Transcripts of previous qualifications.

# The Application Process (ctd)

## (2) Nomination

If the application is deemed to be sufficiently strong, applicants will be nominated by the Subject Area at the university to which the applicant has applied for formal consideration by Northern Bridge.

If the applicant is nominated, a Nomination Form will be sent to the applicant for completion. Section A of the nomination is for completion by the applicant (it will include space for academic track record and research proposal). Section B is for the Subject Area Contact and supervisory team to complete; it will include sections on the supervisory team, the applicant's training & development needs, and the research environment/s by which it will be supported.

## 6. Maximising the chances of success

Applicants should familiarise themselves with the Northern Bridge application procedure (reading everything including Appendix 1 of the Applicant Guidance -- the marking scheme and assessment criteria);

Applicants should speak to Subject Area Contacts as soon as possible;

Applicants should maintain contact throughout with the prospective supervisors;

Applicants should sketch out the research proposal early to allow time for refinement and revision;

Applicants should discuss their training needs with the prospective supervisor: “what will you need be able to do in order to complete your project and function effectively as a researcher in your field? Do you need any specialist or technical skills? Do you need language training? How will you meet these training needs?” Prospective supervisor or subject area contact will complete this portion of the nomination to Northern Bridge, but it is important to have discussed training so that they can complete the form fully and effectively.

## 7. What we are looking for

- An excellent academic track record: a first or high upper second first degree, and performance at or around distinction level in a master's qualification.
- For those who have been out of academia for a period and may not have a formal master's qualification, evidence that equivalent knowledge and research skills have been acquired through professional practice.
- An excellent research proposal that addresses 'clearly-articulated research questions, issues or problems, set in a clear context of other research in that area, and using appropriate research methods and/or approaches' (AHRC research funding guide);
- A research proposal articulated in terms that are accessible to non-specialists;
- A comprehensive assessment of the training needs;
- An absolutely professional approach to all aspects of the completion and presentation of the application.

## 8. Key deadlines

As soon as possible, applicants should make contact with the Subject Area Contact.

Applicants should ensure that they submit their application by the deadline of **Wednesday 9 January** at 5pm. Please note that late applications will not be accepted.

Soon after the 9 January deadline, applicants can expect to be informed by the Subject Area Contact whether they have been selected for nomination.

If applicants are invited to put themselves forward for nomination, they will need to complete Section A of the Nomination Form by the end of January/early February in order for the Subject Area to complete Section B and the whole form to be submitted by the deadline of **Wednesday 13 February**.

**Scrutiny panels** will meet to consider nomination forms from across the consortium, and will return marks by **Friday 1 March**. The **studentship committee** will finalise rankings

The results of the competition will be announced on **Friday 22 March**.

## Questions?

- Breakout groups for:
- Standard Applications
- Creative practice applications
- Collaborative Doctoral Award applications