

Northern Bridge Consortium Collaborative Doctoral Award

Fully-funded PhD opportunities

Project title: **The NUS and its International Engagements**

Partner Organisation: **National Union of Students** (International Director, Edinburgh Office)

Lead supervisor: **Dr Daniel Laqua** (Northumbria University)

We are looking for outstanding candidates interested in undertaking a fully-funded doctoral project in collaboration with the National Union of Students (NUS).

From its very foundation in 1922, the NUS expressed a strong commitment to international cooperation. In its early years, it developed links with national unions of students and organised international exchanges. In subsequent decades, both anti-fascist activism and growing Cold War tensions shaped debates within the organisation. And, especially from the 1970s onwards, solidarity campaigns were a prominent feature of NUS action, as reflected in support for the anti-Apartheid movement and for the victims of Pinochet's dictatorship in Chile.

We are seeking candidates who will examine the ways in which the NUS acted both internationally and transnationally – responding to events abroad and forging ties with student activists in other countries.

PROJECT PROPOSALS

The doctoral project may focus on one specific strand of action or aim for a wider-ranging study. Project proposals should specify the kinds of international campaigns or transnational activities that the candidate intends to focus on. The proposal should also indicate the candidate's willingness to work with the NUS itself in the reassessment and dissemination of its history.

Dr Daniel Laqua (daniel.laqua@northumbria.ac.uk) will act as lead supervisor for the project and is the point of contact for all initial queries. Mike Day, the NUS's International Director, will serve as second supervisor. The doctoral candidate will spend time at the Edinburgh office of the NUS, where Day is based. The candidate will thus be able to contribute to the organisation's current international work (e.g. involvement in the European Students' Union) and to the preparations for the centenary of its foundation. In addition, the candidate will benefit from access to existing research networks and centres that cover aspects of twentieth-century student activism.

Dr Daniel Laqua (<https://www.northumbria.ac.uk/about-us/our-staff/l/daniel-laqua/>) is Associate Professor of European History at Northumbria University. He has published widely on international movements, campaigns and organisations in 19th/20th-century Europe. He is currently investigating different facets of student internationalism, especially with regard to the period from the 1920s to the 1950s. Dr Laqua's research on the International Confederation of Students – a body that brought together representatives of national unions of students – recently appeared in *The English Historical Review*. Together with Georgina Brewis (UCL Institute of Education), he is leading a series of interrelated projects dealing with student life, grant provision and the legacies of the Great War at British universities.

HOW TO APPLY

To take advantage of this opportunity you will:

- Be a resident of the UK or EU
- Be seeking to begin a PhD in October 2019
- Have an outstanding academic record, including an undergraduate degree in a relevant subject and (in most cases) EITHER a master's degree either in hand or shortly to be completed OR relevant and equivalent work experience
- Wish to pursue a doctoral project in collaboration with the National Union of Students and have a professional interest in voluntary associations

Potential applicants should contact Dr Laqua (daniel.laqua@northumbria.ac.uk) by **Friday 14th December** for an initial discussion of their approach to the project. Candidates whose projects are approved to progress should then apply via the Northumbria University online application form by **17:00 on Wednesday 9th January 2019**. Applicants should outline their proposed research, representing it as a CDA project, and quote NBC19 in the 'Project/Student Reference Number' field.

For further information, please see the following websites:

<https://www.northumbria.ac.uk/study-at-northumbria/postgraduate-study/how-to-apply/>