

2021 Competition Launch & Briefing

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NORTHERN BRIDGE
CONSORTIUM DOCTORAL
TRAINING
PARTNERSHIP



Arts & Humanities
Research Council

What is the Northern Bridge Consortium?

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

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

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

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

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Training

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

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

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

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

Placements

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

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

These placements are fully funded by NBC.

Student and staff funding opportunities

NBC students have other funding opportunities, including:

Small and Large Research grants (to support fundamental research costs);

Student Innovation Fund – where groups of NBC students can collaborate on an application to run an event/conference/residential/specialised training.

NBC colleagues and supervisors can also apply for funding for training events via the Cohort Development Fund

2021 Competition briefing

The 2021 competition is now open for applications

We will be awarding up to 65 studentships in total, up to 20% of which will be Collaborative Doctoral Awards.

Successful applicants will receive 3.5 years of fees & stipend funding, plus access to the additional funding streams.

Changes to the status of EU and International applicants.

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

They will start their PhDs in October 2021

www.northernbridge.ac.uk

Timeline

1 October 2021: competition opens

Wednesday 13 January 2021 all applicants must have applied for a PhD place at their institution.

Internal sifts take place to decide which applicants will go forward

Wednesday 17 February 2021 nomination forms to NBC

By 17 March 2021 subject panels will have scored nomination forms

Moderation process and Studentship Committee

Thursday 15 April 2021 results announced

Supervision

NBC seeks to support the best quality and expertise of supervision

Inclusion of all career stages in supervisory teams is encouraged

For interdisciplinary applications, would expect to see the relevant disciplines in the team

Cross-institution supervision or 'advising' also encouraged (work-load aware but minimum commitment of 3 hours per year expected).

Supervisor training will also be made available.

Collaborative Doctoral Awards

Up to 20% or approx. 13 awards per year will be on the CDA model.

These require an external partner, a representative of whom will be on the supervisory team;

Projects must demonstrate benefits for that partner, as well as the student and university;

No restriction on the external partner but they must be non-HEI.

There are Project-led CDAs and Student-led CDAs.

No financial commitment is required from the external partner organisation.

Interdisciplinary Applications

We strongly support interdisciplinary applications

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.

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

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

Creative Practice Applications

We strongly support Creative Practice applications

We recognize that applicants may be applying after careers in professional practice and other areas and have been working out of academia for some time.

Applicants nominated in Creative Practice-based areas are required to supply a URL to a portfolio of outputs which may be accessed by assessors for contextual information only.

The portfolio is not a 'quality' check but rather allows applicants to demonstrate how their creative work represents an appropriate methodology for addressing their research questions and their preparedness for doctoral study.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

- NBC is an inclusive community, where everybody – staff and students – are treated with dignity and respect and this is part of our vision of how research excellence comes about.
- We value individual differences and the diversity that this brings and want to ensure that no-one is at a disadvantage – whether at application stage or as part of our cohort – because of who they are, and we undertake Positive Action to support that aim.
- As part of our annual competition, we include a critical friend in the form of an EDI champion, who reviews our competition process, paperwork and outcomes to help us be as inclusive as we can be.
- We welcome all applicants irrespective of their gender, socio-economic background or ethnicity. We value and seek to include such diverse life experience and recognise the importance of it in developing excellent research.
- We explicitly encourage assessment panels to recognise this in their assessment of a candidate's preparedness for doctoral study at both stages of the competition.

Support – briefings & masterclasses

There are a range of support events for both applicants and potential supervisors:

Applicant Masterclasses: will be 3 on Zoom, week of 9th November.

Use your local director!

Think about 'Plan B' and pandemic impact

Guidance documentation at www.northernbridge.ac.uk

Questions?
