**Studentship Competition
Guidance Notes for Staff and Applicants**

This guidance applies to all award routes.

<u>**PLEASE READ**</u>

INTRODUCTION

The Northern Bridge Consortium Doctoral Training Programme (NBCDTP) runs an annual studentship competition to select postgraduate doctoral students of the very highest calibre to study at one of our partner institutions: Durham University, Newcastle University, Northumbria University, Queen's University Belfast, University of Sunderland, Teesside University and Ulster University.[1] The competition is open to all applicants who meet the AHRC's eligibility criteria:
TGC 5.2 Student Eligibility: https://www.ukri.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/UKRI-050422-TrainingGrantTermsConditionsGuidance-Apr2022.pdf.

This document provides guidance to **members of staff** (including Subject Area Leads and Scrutiny Panel members) at NBCDTP partner institutions and to **applicants** on the selection process and administrative arrangements for the NBCDTP studentship competition.

The aim of the document is to make the competition's process clear to all. To this end, this guidance note takes account of frequently asked questions from previous years.[2]

Applicants are expected to read the following for detailed guidance on their obligations as a potential studentship award-holder, and on the NBCDTP's obligations as a UKRI AHRC grant holder:

- UKRI Terms and Conditions of Training Grants
- UKRI Training Grant Guide
- AHRC's Training Grant Funding Guide

All at: https://ahrc.ukri.org/skills/phdstudents/award-holders-terms-and-conditions/
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[1] While successful applicants are registered at one institution, cross-institutional supervision is allowed.
[2] The terms and conditions of a studentship award are not covered in this document except in a small number of instances (e.g. employment), which may influence an applicant's decision to apply.

DEFINITIONS

AHRC: Arts and Humanities Research Council and NBCDTP funder.

Host Institution: The university where the student applicant wishes to be registered and to which they will therefore apply.

NBCDTP: Northern Bridge Consortium Doctoral Training Partnership.

NBCDTP Director: Each partner institution (please see below) nominates its own NBCDTP director. Directors deal with issues at the local, host institution level but also work collectively to shape and oversee the competition.

Partner Institution: A member of the NBCDTP: Newcastle, Durham, Northumbria, Queen's Belfast, Sunderland, Teesside and Ulster universities.

UKRI: UK Research and Innovation (oversees all 9 research councils, including AHRC)

CONTENTS

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION (EDI) AND WIDENING PARTICIPATION (WP)

NBCDTP is an inclusive community in which everybody – staff and students alike – are treated with dignity and respect. This is part of our vision of how research excellence comes about. We value individual differences and the diversity that this brings, and we are keen to ensure that no-one is at a disadvantage – whether at the application stage or as part of our successful cohort – because of who they are. We undertake Positive Action to support this aim (https://www.advance-he.ac.uk/guidance/equality-diversity-and-inclusion/equality-legislation/positive-action).

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 seek to include diverse life experiences and recognise the value of this diversity in developing excellent research. We explicitly encourage assessment panels to recognise this in their assessment of a candidate's preparedness for doctoral study.

We are committed to WP in our DTP (and beyond) through positive action and support. We welcome applicants of all ages and from all backgrounds. We are particularly keen to encourage applications from under-represented groups, including (though not limited to) people with disabilities, members of ethnic minorities,applicants from lower income families and mature students. (*Pg.5*)

In keeping with our commitment to WP, awards can be either full-time or part-time. (*Pg.5*)

Nominees are asked to complete an **Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form**. This will be separated from the nomination form before the nomination is circulated for review[3].   Subject Area Scrutiny Panel members will not see the Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form. The NBCDTP is required to submit anonymised statistics to the AHRC on EDI characteristics for all nominees and those who are successful. The NBCDTP administrator at Newcastle University will be able to identify who the Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form belongs to, solely for the purposes of being able to make this distinction. All information reported to the AHRC and to the Studentships Committee will be anonymised. (*Pg. 26*)

Subject Area Scrutiny Panels will assess nominations with due regard to non-conventional trajectories—e.g., where relevant experience is deemed to compensate for a lower degree classification. (*Pg. 14*)

Subject Area Scrutiny Panels should be aware of, and sympathetic to, the fact that applicants will come from a diverse range of backgrounds, including those with experience in practice or industry. NBCDTP is fully committed to WP and EDI, and is actively supporting, though its positive action initiatives, the diversification of its staff and student cohort. We ask panels to be mindful of issues surrounding WP and EDI when completing Part 1 of the Nomination Form. (*Pg. 32*)

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[3] As we explain below, applicants apply to their preferred school or department at their preferred university and signal that they wish to be considered for a NBDTC award. The school or department decides which applicants to put forward for the NBDTC competition; if selected, applicants must then fill out the relevant nomination form.

Subject Area Scrutiny Panel members are asked to bear in mind that while formal academic qualifications are important indicators of academic achievement and potential, comparable consideration should be made to nominees with less conventional academic profiles, for example, mature nominees with significant and distinguished careers in creative arts or other professional practices. (*Pg. 32*)

Equality Action Award Studentship

The Northern Bridge Consortium is pleased to announce the launch of our Equality Action Award Studentships scheme. In keeping with our commitment to tackling inequality, promoting diversity and fostering inclusion within postgraduate research, these awards are designed to encourage applications from under-represented groups (as identified through analysis of currently available EDI data).

The Equality Action Award Studentships scheme is open to Black, Minority Ethnic and / or Irish Traveller applicants. Two Equality Action Studentship Awards are available for 2022-23.

Eligible applicants will be invited to indicate whether they wish to be considered for this award on the Northern Bridge Consortium Nomination Form. Successful candidates will meet our published award criteria and must qualify for home fees status.

We make up to 67 awards per year. There are three different types of award – staff-led collaborative doctoral awards, student-led collaborative doctoral awards, and standard doctoral awards. Staff and students should judge carefully which route is best for them.

Of the 67 awards that we make, a number are reserved for the staff-led competition which runs earlier in the year. There is no separate competition for student-led collaborative nominations; they are entered into the open competition and compete against standard nominations. We do not reserve awards for student-led collaborative nominations.[4]

1. Staff-led Collaborative Doctoral Awards

- Members of academic staff at NBCDTP partner institutions submit a doctoral research proposal in partnership with a non-HE organisation to NBCDTP. Normally, this competition runs from August to October each year.

- Successful projects are normally advertised and recruited to from November to March. Interested applicants will usually have to submit an application, CV and Expression of Interest. If selected, they will then be interviewed.

- Further information can be found at:
  http://www.northernbridge.ac.uk/applyforstudentship/cda/

2. Student-led Collaborative Doctoral Awards

- Student applicants approach potential supervisors at their preferred host institution **and** a non-HE organisation(s) to develop a collaborative project originating from the applicant's research proposal.

- It is expected that the applicant initiates the project and partnership.

- These nominations are assessed in the **open competition**.

- This route is not open to PhD students who have already commenced their studies unless the student is already engaged in a CDA-type project.

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[4] Effectively, there are two competitions: a staff-led CDA competition (ca. 13 awards) and a standard-route or open competition (ca. 54 awards). The open competition accepts two types of nomination: standard and student-led CDA.

3. Standard PhD Awards

- The most common option (around 85% of applicants take this route).

- Applicants with a research proposal in mind identify a potential supervisor from across the whole Consortium, and approach their potential supervisor(s) to develop their proposal.

- It is expected that the applicant initiates the project.

- These nominations are assessed in the open competition.

- Students currently registered on a doctoral programme at an NBCDTP institution are also eligible to apply.

In All Cases:

- Research proposals can be interdisciplinary and/or creative practice-based.

- Research proposals are welcome from recent graduates (or from those about to graduate) or from those who have not attended a university for some time. In any of these cases applicants may point to relevant professional or practitioner experience in order to substantiate their case for funding.

- We are committed to widening participation in our DTP (and beyond) through positive action and support. We welcome applicants of all ages and from all backgrounds. We are particularly keen to encourage applications from under-represented groups, including (though not limited to) people with disabilities, members of ethnic minorities, lower income families and mature students.

- In keeping with our commitment to widening participation, awards can be either full-time or part-time.

Number of Awards Available

- Up to 67 doctoral awards across all partner institutions.

- Up to 20% (c.13) of these will be allocated to Collaborative Doctoral Awards under the separate Staff-led Collaborative Doctoral Awards competition.

- As stipulated by the AHRC, no more than 30% of the total number of awards available can be allocated to international candidates.[5]

Duration of an Award

- The normal duration of an award is **42 months full-time** (3.5 years) or **84 months part-time** (7 years).

- Awards to **students who have already commenced their PhD** will be reduced by the length of time the student has already been registered on the PhD programme.

- Part-time students who have already commenced their PhD may apply to transfer to full-time for the remainder of their studies should they be successful in the competition, and vice versa.[6]

- A part-time award must not be less than 50% of the full-time equivalent.[7]

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[5] Subject areas, schools and departments should especially bear this constraint in mind when nominating applicants to the competition.

[6] Applicants who have already commenced their doctoral studies are eligible to apply on the condition that they will have completed no more than 18 months of full-time or 36 months of part-time study at the point at which they would take up the award (usually 1 October of the relevant year). They must notify their supervisors and their host institution's postgraduate office that they wish to be considered for an award (usually in January of the relevant year). They must not submit a new postgraduate application form to their host institution or contact their host institution's Postgraduate Admissions Service; it is not necessary.

[7] Part-time awards will, however, fall under the relevant regulations of the host institution. E.g., some partner institutions will **only** permit part-time study at 50% of the full-time equivalent (e.g., they will not allow part-time study at 60% of the full-time equivalent).

Who is Eligible to be Considered for an Award

- All UK and international applicants with a research proposal falling within the **AHRC's subject domain:** (https://ahrc.ukri.org/funding/research/subjectcoverage/ahrc-disciplines/)

- All UK and international applicants meeting the entry requirements of their preferred PhD programme at their **host institution.**

- All UK and International applicants who have secured the support of a **school or departmental-level supervisory team** with expertise in the subject area(s) at their preferred host institution.

The Value of the Award

- **Tuition fees** paid at a rate equivalent to the Home UK fee.

- A minimum **stipend** per year for living costs, which is paid in regular instalments. Awards increase every year, typically with inflation. As an indicator, the level for 2022/2023 was £17,668.

- Award-holders are eligible to apply to a fund reserved for supporting primary research costs to include, for example, conference attendance, fieldwork, language training, overseas research visits and placements with a non-academic partner.

- Award-holders **will not have a personal research account** on which to draw.

- NBCDTP will **not** under any circumstances fund the (monetary) difference between home and international tuition fees. However, an international applicant's host institution may offer an additional scholarship to the value of this difference. Applicants should check with their host institution for further guidance. In some cases, successful international applicants may need to be prepared to fund the difference between the home and international tuition fee rate by alternative means.

Employment

- It is a condition of an award that at the time of commencing the award (1 October 2023) the applicant is **not in full-time employment**. Applicants in full-time employment are not eligible for an award.

- An applicant in part-time employment may be eligible for a part-time award providing the hours of employment plus the hours of part-time study do not normally exceed the equivalent of 1.0 full-time equivalent (FTE). Exceeding this limit is prohibited in some institutions and may result in all or part of the studentship award being reclaimed by the NBCDTP. Applicants first should check with their host institution if intending to continue part-time working hours.

- During the studentship, award-holders can undertake teaching and demonstrating duties (or relevant alternative employment) provided that their supervisor(s) agree that the total demand made on a student's time is compatible with their studies. Employment for full-time award-holders is not expected to exceed six hours in any one week, including preparation time. Students cannot accept employment that involves substantial calls on their time (which may put their wellbeing and timeline for completion at risk) without the written consent of the Dean of Postgraduate Studies or equivalent at their host institution.
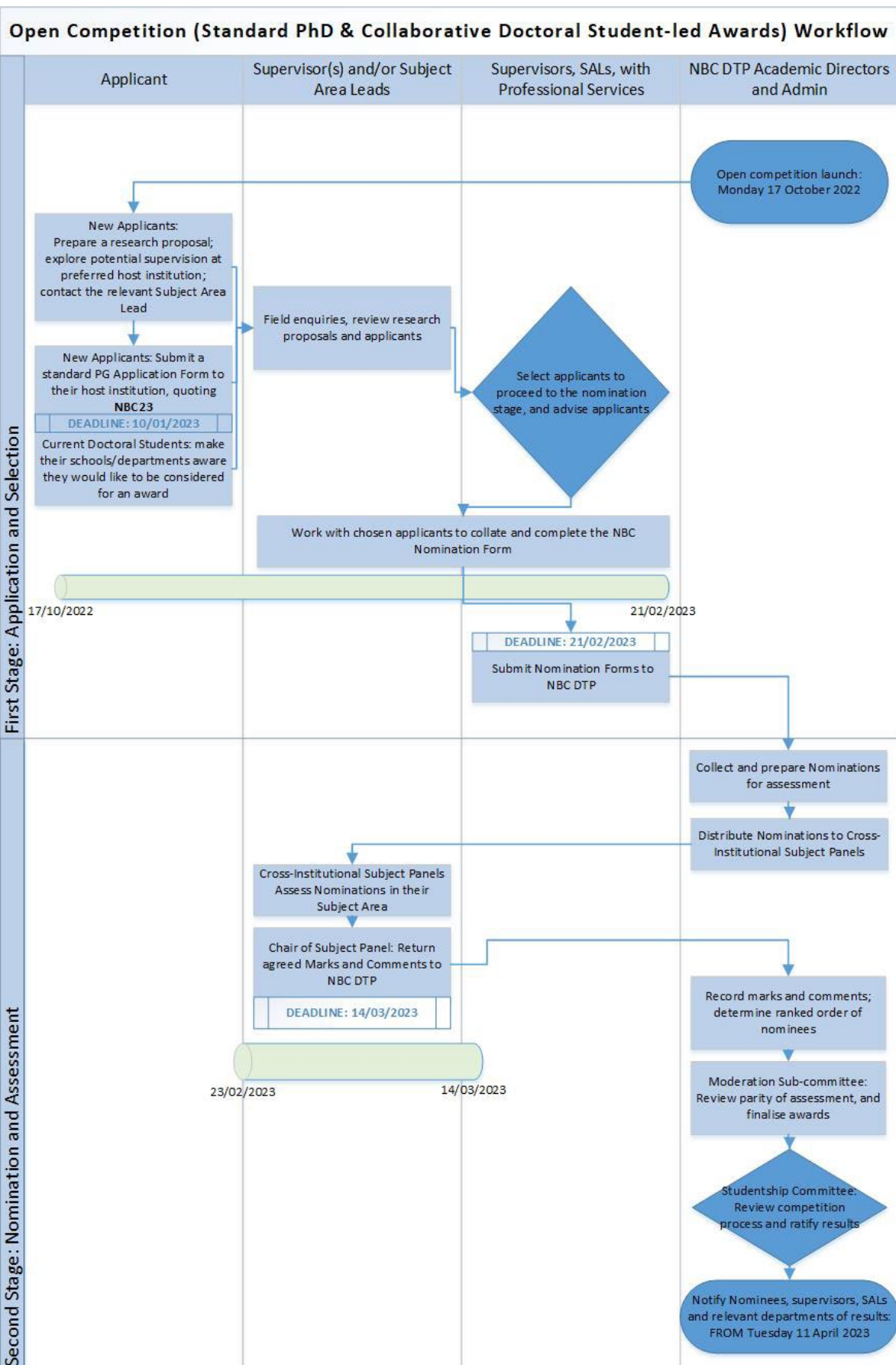
Study Location

- The UKRI and AHRC advise that studentship award-holders are required to be resident in the UK for the majority of their studies, and *"The Student must live within a reasonable travel time of their Research Organisation or collaborative organisation to ensure that they are able to maintain regular contact with their department and their Supervisor. This is to ensure that the Student is not isolated and receives the full support, mentoring, training and access to facilities required to complete their research successfully and to a high standard. The only exceptions to these requirements are to cover periods of absence that are an essential part of their study e.g. fieldwork, study visits or conference attendance.*
Source: https://www.ukri.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/UKRI-050422-TrainingGrantTermsConditionsGuidance-Apr2022.pdf

THE STUDENTSHIP COMPETITION TIMELINE AND WORKFLOW

Mid-October 2022	Subject Area Leads confirmed for the 2022/2023 competition and published to the Northern Bridge website.
Monday 17 October 2022	The Open Competition launches online.
Tuesday 25 October 2:00-4:00pm	Online Launch Event open to all academic and professional services staff.
Prospective applicants make their initial approach to the appropriate Subject Area Leads and prospective supervisors.	
Thursday 3 November 10:00-12:00 midday Tuesday 8 November 2:00-4:00pm	Online workshops prospective applicants
Tuesday 10 January 2023	Deadline for the submission of postgraduate application forms to host institution
Tuesday 10 January 2023	Deadline for currently registered, eligible, postgraduate research students to make their schools/departments aware that they would like to considered for an award
Subject Areas Lead work with their strongest applicants to complete the NBCDTP Nomination Form	
Tuesday 21 February 2023, by 16:00	Deadline for the submission of Nomination Forms to the NBCDTP
Thursday 23 February 2023	NBCDTP Nomination Forms made available to Subject Area Scrutiny Panels via OneDrive for assessment
Nomination Form assessment period	
Tuesday 14 March 2023, by 16:00	Deadline for the submission of all Subject Area Scrutiny Panel scores and comments to the NBCDTP
Results collated and made available to the NBCDTP Moderation Sub-committee	
Wednesday 22 March 2023	Moderation by the NBCDTP Moderation Sub-committee
Results and documentation made available to members of the Studentships Committee	
Thursday 6 April 2023	Meeting of the NBCDTP Studentships Committee
FROM Tuesday 11 April 2023 (subject to individual institutional processes)	Results announced
Studentship offer letters issued to successful nominees	
Successful nominees are expected to accept (or decline) their award within two weeks of notification of the outcome	

Open Competition (Standard PhD & Collaborative Doctoral Student-led Awards) Workflow

Applicant	Supervisor(s) and/or Subject Area Leads	Supervisors, SALs, with Professional Services	NBC DTP Academic Directors and Admin

First Stage: Application and Selection

Open competition launch: Monday 17 October 2022

New Applicants: Prepare a research proposal; explore potential supervision at preferred host institution; contact the relevant Subject Area Lead

New Applicants: Submit a standard PG Application Form to their host institution, quoting **NBC23**
DEADLINE: 10/01/2023

Current Doctoral Students: make their schools/departments aware they would like to be considered for an award

Field enquiries, review research proposals and applicants

Select applicants to proceed to the nomination stage, and advise applicants

Work with chosen applicants to collate and complete the NBC Nomination Form

17/10/2022 — 21/02/2023

DEADLINE: 21/02/2023
Submit Nomination Forms to NBC DTP

Second Stage: Nomination and Assessment

Collect and prepare Nominations for assessment

Distribute Nominations to Cross-Institutional Subject Panels

Cross-Institutional Subject Panels Assess Nominations in their Subject Area

Chair of Subject Panel: Return agreed Marks and Comments to NBC DTP
DEADLINE: 14/03/2023

23/02/2023 — 14/03/2023

Record marks and comments; determine ranked order of nominees

Moderation Sub-committee: Review parity of assessment, and finalise awards

Studentship Committee: Review competition process and ratify results

Notify Nominees, supervisors, SALs and relevant departments of results: FROM Tuesday 11 April 2023

Step One:

Applicants identify a potential supervisor from across the whole Consortium. Having done so, applicants contact the relevant Subject Area Lead and/or potential supervisor(s) at their preferred host institution[8] **at the earliest opportunity** to ensure that:

- the expertise and capacity to supervise the proposed research is actually present;
- the viability of the proposed research can be assessed;
- the applicant will be fully supported throughout the competition process.

Applicants who delay approaching the Subject Area Lead and potential supervisors until close to the postgraduate application deadline are unlikely to be considered for nomination.

Step Two:

Applicants identify the member of Professional Services staff, or member of staff (which may be their supervisor, Subject Area Lead or local Northern Bridge Administrator), who has responsibility for the administration of the NBCDTP applicant selection and nomination process within their school or department at their host institution.

Step Three:

Applicants submit a Postgraduate Application Form and other supporting documentation to their host institution by the **Tuesday 10 January 2023**. Please note that, while the process will vary from institution to institution, all applicants must indicate that they wish to be considered for the NBCDTP studentship competition:

- **Durham University:**
  Under 'How do you propose to fund your studies?' please select "Northern Bridge AHRC studentship" from the drop-down menu.

- **Newcastle University:**
  Quote **NBC23** under 'Studentship/Partnership Reference' and 'Who is your sponsor/funding body?'

- **Northumbria University:**
  Quote **NBC23** under the 'Project/Studentship Reference Number' field.

- **Queen's University Belfast**:
  Tick 'I will apply separately to an external body' then enter **NBC23** under 'To which body do you intend to apply?'

- **University of Sunderland:**
  State the supervisor and **NBC23** in Section 6 'Who is expected to pay your fees.'

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[8] http://www.northernbridge.ac.uk/studentships/subjectareasandcontacts/

- o **Teesside University:**
  Answer the question 'Who will pay your fees' by selecting 'other' and then quoting **NBC23**.

- o **Ulster University**
  Insert **NBC23** in response to the question 'If you will be self-funded or are in receipt of a private scholarship then please provide further information here' in the Funding Details section.

- **If an applicant has already applied to their host institution, or omits the indication that they wish to be considered for a Northern Bridge studentship from their postgraduate application**, they should contact the Subject Area Lead and Professional Services contact in the relevant school/department as soon as possible, and before **Tuesday 10 January 2023**.

- Applicants can apply to **only one** of the seven institutions in the NBCDTP. Applicants who apply to more than one NBCDTP partner institution will be disqualified without consideration.

- However, applicants may apply to more than one Doctoral Training Partnership, including the ESRC Northern Ireland North East (NINE) DTP. For example, an applicant in Linguistics may apply to the NINE DTP *and* the NBCDTP at Newcastle; but may **not** apply to the NBCDTP via Newcastle and QUB.

THE NOMINATION FORM

ESSENTIAL NOTE FOR APPLICANTS

Applicants **must** be selected for nomination by their school/department

Applicants who submit incomplete and unsolicited Nomination Forms, direct to schools or departments, or direct to the NBCDTP **will not be considered**.

Applicants who approach schools and departments after the published deadlines **will not be considered**.

The Nomination Form is available online:
http://www.northernbridge.ac.uk/applyforastudentship/theopenstudentshipcompetition/

THE NOMINATION FORM PART 1

General Note

- It is important that nominees write in clear, precise English, and that they express their ideas in a way that is accessible to non-specialists. The members of a Subject Area Scrutiny Panel will be experts, but not necessarily in specific sub-fields. It is advisable, therefore, to avoid or to explain discipline-specific jargon or terminology.

Section 1: Nominee Details and Eligibility

- Please provide full and accurate information. The NBCDTP will base its decision on the nominee's eligibility for a particular level of funding (home or international) on the details provided **at the time of nomination** to the NBCDTP.[9]

- To self-assess eligibility for a particular level of funding (home or international), nominees should consult "*Changes to EU and International Eligibility for UKRI funded studentships from Academic Year 2021/22 onwards - Implementation Guidance for Training Grant Holders*" on the NBCDTP website: http://www.northernbridge.ac.uk/applyforastudentship/theopenstudentshipcompetition/

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[9] As noted above, while there is a considerable gap between home and international tuition fees, some partner institutions may have provisions in place to make up for this gap.

Section 2: Award, University and Subject Area Details

- All nominees must select a **Primary AHRC Subject Area** from the drop-down list to ensure that the nomination is evaluated by reviewers with the requisite subject expertise. **Do not** overwrite the existing list or add a new subject area.

- **Interdisciplinary** proposals may still fall within the purview of a single subject area or discipline. If, however, the proposed project is interdisciplinary in a way described in the definition of interdisciplinaritybelow, the nominee should select **one Secondary AHRC Subject Area**.

- If a nominee indicates that, **Yes**, they wish their nomination to be considered by the Interdisciplinary Panel, **a reason must be provided** in the space below. If no reason is provided, the nomination will be treated as a single-subject proposal and **not** interdisciplinary.

- Additional guidance for **Interdisciplinary** nominees can be found below.

Section 3: Higher Education to Date

- Nominees are reminded that for taught postgraduate and undergraduate awards they must provide a full transcript, translated into English where necessary.

- Nominees currently completing a taught postgraduate programme must provide a provisional transcript listing their modules and marks received to-date.

- Current PhD nominees should use this section to provide details of their programme.

- Should a nominee hold more than one undergraduate and/or postgraduate degree, they should list the most relevant to the nomination and subject of the research proposal.

Section 4: Professional Employment Experience and **Publications, Exhibitions, Commissions, etc.**

- Subject Area Scrutiny Panels will assess nominations with due regard to non-conventional trajectories—e.g., where relevant experience is deemed to compensate for a lower degree classification.

- Relevant examples include exhibitions, shows, work in galleries, awards, commissions, residencies, publications, conference papers. These should be relevant to the research proposal and not otherwise mentioned on the nomination.

Section 5: Research Proposal and Case for Support

- The 100-word summary of the proposal should be written in such a way as to be accessible to a reader who may not be a subject specialist. This summary will be provided to the AHRC should the nomination be successful.

- To be eligible for funding, all research proposals **must explicitly address each of** the following considerations:

  *1. It must define a series of **research questions**, issues or problems that will be addressed in the course of the research. It must also define its aims and objectives in terms of seeking to enhance knowledge and understanding relating to the questions, issues or problems to be addressed.*

  *2. It must specify a **research context** for the questions, issues or problems to be addressed. You must specify why it is important that these particular questions, issues or problems should be addressed; what other research is being or has been conducted in this area; and what particular contribution this project will make to the advancement of creativity, insights, knowledge and understanding in this area.*

  *3. It must specify the **research methods** for addressing and answering the research questions, issues or problems. You must state how, in the course of the research project, you will seek to answer the questions, address the issues or solve the problems. You should also explain the rationale for your chosen research methods and why you think they provide the most appropriate means by which to address the research questions, issues or problems.*

  Our primary concern is to ensure that the research we fund 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.

  Source: *https://www.ukri.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/AHRC-210722-ResearchFundingGuide.pdf*

  *4. It should be clear from the Case for Support that the project is **feasible** within the allotted timeframe (up to three and a half years of full-time funded study or up to seven years of part-time funded study). You should highlight any potential difficulties that might arise and explain how they will be met, and you must also show that you have seriously considered costs and resource implications of undertaking the proposed research.*

- The proposal is strictly limited to **750 words**. Do **not** include a bibliography or footnotes. A brief note of the reference (e.g. *Smith, 1990*) is sufficient as the proposal will be considered by experts familiar with the literature.

- Additional guidance for **Creative Practice** nominees can be found below.

- Additional guidance for **Student-Led Collaborative Project** nominees can be found below.

Resources and Facilities

- Nominees should consult prospective supervisors about the availability of key resources and the likely costs of research and training activities in order to ensure the viability of the proposed research project, and provide an estimate where possible. Highlight the resources and facilities that will be required. Note, for example, anticipated fieldwork, special training (e.g. immersive difficult language training) or specialist equipment requirements that will be necessary for the successful completion of the PhD.[10]

- Successful nominees/award-holders will have the opportunity to bid for additional funding to support their research costs as they progress through their PhD. Such funding is not guaranteed and **award-holders do not have a personal allowance to draw on**. Significant costs stated as necessary to the research may influence the assessors' view of the feasibility of the project.

- If a student is successful in getting a studentship, and applies to the NBCDTP's grant scheme during the course of their studentship, any high-cost bids are checked against this section of the Nomination Form. A failure to mention high-cost requirements at the nomination stage will mean the funding application is likely to be rejected.

The Project's Suitability to the NBCDTP

- Nominees should consider the expertise of the proposed supervisors, the resources available within the NBCDTP universities, specific training provision, and the potential relevance of external strategic partners.

- Nominees are encouraged to consider any potential placement opportunities available through non-HE organisations. They should use this section to indicate if they have already established whether their studentship will include a placement. However, **nominees who have not secured a placement will not be penalised.**

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[10] It should not be assumed that such costs will be met by the NBCDTP, nor by the nominee's institution; such additional funding is not guaranteed.

INFORMATION FOR INTERDISCIPLINARY APPLICANTS

We understand interdisciplinary research as being the integration of methodological approaches from two or more **distinct** subject areas, generating outcomes that could not be achieved from within a single subject area.

So defined, the NBCDTP welcomes applications for interdisciplinary research projects. These may be of two kinds:

- (i) Applicants engage with **two or more arts and humanities disciplines (or subject areas)**.[11] In this case, applicants must make it clear how their project will integrate approaches from the two subject areas (e.g., film and philosophy) they have identified. Eligible nominations will be assessed by a specially convened Interdisciplinary Panel with the relevant expertise (in subject area, interdisciplinary studies, and creative practice and collaborative projects where appropriate). The interdisciplinary panel may determine that a nomination is most appropriately reviewed as a single-area nomination rather than an interdisciplinary nomination, and routed to that panel for assessment.

- (ii) Applicants engage **both with arts and humanities disciplines and with a STEM or social sciences discipline**. In this case, applicants must still make it clear that their project falls predominantly within the arts and humanities (that is, at least 50%). Nominees should identify the project as interdisciplinary. In particular, they should identify the non-AHRC subject area and provide an explanation for its rationale on the Nomination Form. Again, eligible nominations will be assessed by the Interdisciplinary Panel.

For Instance:

- Under (i) above, a project that uses linguistic analysis of language attitudes to explore and develop the design of language-learning apps for refugees would be interdisciplinary. It integrates methodologies from two arts and humanities subject areas (Linguistics and Interaction Design) and would be assessed for its success in addressing those disciplines by the Interdisciplinary Panel. It generates outcomes that *could not* be achieved within a single discipline or subject area.

- Under (ii) above, a project that makes significant use of research methods associated with economics as part of a broader study of popular music would be interdisciplinary . It integrates methodologies from an arts and humanities discipline (music) and a social sciences discipline (economics) and would be assessed by Interdisciplinary Panel.

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[11] The AHRC subject domain, and hence the subject disciplines or subject areas that it covers, can be accessed here: https://ahrc.ukri.org/funding/research/subjectcoverage/ahrc-disciplines/

- However, projects where the researcher reviews economic literature on popular music, but does not use methods of economic analysis as part of their original contribution, would not meet this definition. A project that explores Ghanaian literary culture of the 1990s, and in doing so draws on historical political material such as newspapers, is not interdisciplinary for the purposes of NBCDTP assessment. The *data* are often considered by different subjects, but the *methods* belong to a single discipline. The project outcomes *could* be achieved within a single subject area.

In All Cases:

- If a nominee indicates that, **Yes**, they wish their nomination to be considered by the interdisciplinary panel, **a reason must be provided** in the space provided on the Nomination Form. If no reason is provided, the nomination will be treated as a single-subject proposal and **not** as interdisciplinary.

- **Section 6: Sample of Practice-based Outputs**
  NBCDTP seeks actively to support Creative Practice-led research. Applicants nominated in Creative Practice-based areas only are required to supply a URL to a portfolio of outputs which provides the assessors with contextual information and articulates the methodological aspect of creative practice. The portfolio is not an extra quality check but rather allows nominees to demonstrate how their creative work represents an appropriate methodology for addressing their research questions and their preparedness for doctoral study.

  It is vital that nominees make clear the methodological value of creative practice within the application.

- **Please note that all Creative Practice Research must meet the AHRC's definition of practice-led research:** *Creative output can be produced, or practice undertaken, as an integral part of a research process as defined above* [under **Section 5: Research Proposal and Case for Support**]*. The Council would expect, however, this practice to be accompanied by some form of documentation of the research process, as well as some form of textual analysis or explanation to support its position and as a record of your critical reflection. Equally, creativity or practice may involve no such process at all, in which case it would be ineligible for funding from the Arts and Humanities Research Council.*

  Source: https://www.ukri.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/AHRC-210722-ResearchFundingGuide.pdf

- It is expected that:

  o The nominee identifies and approaches a suitable non-HE partner organisation as well as a potential supervisor at the host institution in order to develop their own proposed project;

  o Responsibility for supervision and training is shared between the non-HE partner organisation and the host institution;

  o The project is set up so that it generates benefits for the non-HE partner organisation as well as producing the outputs required for the award of a PhD;

  o The student normally spends a substantial portion of the period of doctoral study at the non-HE partner organisation.

- It is essential that conversations between prospective nominees, the partner organisation and the university supervisors begin at the earliest opportunity.

- In developing their application, the nominee should consider the following:

  o **Intrinsic Benefits**: how will the research field produce insights and knowledge that will help the partner organisation achieve its objectives?

  o **Process Benefits**: how will the partner organisation benefit from the process of the nominee's undertaking of the research project, informally or through the completion of specific tasks (e.g. cataloguing of collections, knowledge exchange with staff)?

  o **Public Engagement Benefits**: what kind of research outcomes will generate 'content' for the partner organisation to use in their public engagement work (e.g. material for an exhibition)?

Completed by the Nominee's School or Department

Section 8: Supervision (and Cross-institutional Supervision)

Cross-institutional supervision drawing on expertise across the Consortium is explicitly encouraged, but is not a requirement.

The composition of the proposed supervisory team must comply with the host institution's Code of Practice for Postgraduate Research Students (or equivalent). Where a successful candidate is supported by a supervisory team that crosses institutional boundaries, the main and second supervisors must be at the host institution, with the third advisor from another institution. In certain, exceptional, cases it may be appropriate for there to be a fourth advisor from another institution as well.

Additional supervisors may be appointed from an NBCDTP partner institution, or any other HE or non-HE organisation, if appropriate to the research proposal and if permitted by the host institution.

There is no financial remuneration for external supervisors and advisors via the NBCDTP. A financial arrangement, if any, will be at discretion of the host institution, and cannot by any means be funded by the NBCDTP.

- When filling in this section, please include:

  - The supervisory team's expertise in relation to the proposed project
  - Details of the track record of postgraduate (PhD) student supervision across the supervisory team;
  - Relevant publications;
  - Any involvement in postgraduate training;
  - Relevant web-links to staff profiles and publications
  - Where appropriate, arrangements for mentoring and support for Early Career supervisors or supervisors with less experience of PhD supervision.

Section 9: Training and Development

- Funding for research and training activities from the NBCDTP is limited. Supervisors must confirm that any supplementary costs involved in undertaking fundamental research or in meeting the nominee's training needs are realistic and justified, and explain how these costs will be met in full, if not by the NBCDTP. No funding (additional to fees and stipend) is guaranteed and award-holders **do not have a personal allowance** to draw on for primary research costs. Significant costs stated as necessary to the research, for which funding is not guaranteed, may influence the assessors' view of the feasibility of the project.

Section 10: Research Environment

- We encourage applications to consider the range of expertise and recources across the NBCDTP when characterising the Research Environment the project will be integrated into.

- Explain how the nominee will be integrated into the research environment in their subject area. Include details of how the research strengths of the subject in the school/department, interdisciplinary research groups, clusters, Centres, and Institutes, specialised facilities/resources, and external partnerships, are relevant to or will contribute to the completion of the nominee's research project.

- For **Student-led Collaborative Doctoral Award nominees** also outline the contribution of the collaboration and the value added to the nominee's research project, including the arrangements for support of the nominee by the partner and any previous experience of collaboration with the partner. Include details of how the nominee will be integrated into the culture of the partner organisation, and the specialised facilities/resources they will benefit from.

- **Two references are required.** Additional references will not be accepted and will be removed from the nomination.

- For EDI and other reasons, we request that referees use the **Northern Bridge Consortium Reference Form.**

- We will accept references that do not use the Northern Bridge reference form. In such cases, we request that the reference is 500-750 words maximum and focused on the applicant's preparedness for doctoral study.

ADVICE FOR SCHOOLS AND DEPARTMENTS

- **Schools and departments should set their own internal deadlines** for the receipt of references, bearing in mind the deadline for the receipt of the full nomination is Tuesday 21 February 2023, by 16:00.

- **References must be sent to schools and departments, not to applicants.** Thus, schools and departments should either advise applicants to approach referees, providing them with the link to the Northern Bridge Consortium Reference Form and details on how it is to be returned, *or* they should obtain contact details of the referees from the applicant and then manage the process of request and return themselves.

ADVICE FOR APPLICANTS

- To obtain details of the local process for receipt of references, you should consult the member of staff who has responsibility for the administration of the NBCDTP studentship competition at your host institution. This person might be, for example, the local Northern Bridge Consortium Administrator, your supervisor, the Subject Area Lead, or a member of Professional Services staff.

- Advise referees that they may also be contacted by the host institution's Postgraduate Admissions Service and asked to provide separate references. At some partner institutions, this is a required part of the admissions process, necessary to be considered for a place on the PhD programme, and independent of the NBCDTP studentship competition.

- If you are returning to higher education after a period of professional practice or similar and you are not able to draw on academic referees, please ensure that the chosen referees are able to comment on your preparedness for doctoral study.

- To avoid potential conflicts of interest, you **must** identify referees who are independent of your proposed supervisory team.

- However, if you have already commenced your PhD programme, one of the references can be provided by your primary supervisor. To describe your preparedness for doctoral study, the supervisor should comment on your PhD capability as evidenced since the start of your programme.

ADVICE FOR REFEREES

- Referees are reminded that we all hold unconscious bias. This bias can affect how references are written, for example, there is research showing that references for female and/or BAME candidates are shorter, more likely to invoke stereotypes and less attentive to achievements. One way to address unconscious bias is to review the adjectives and nouns used in a reference, asking, for example, if there are gendered words that should be amended.

- As part of Northern Bridge Consortium's work to address unconscious bias, we request that you provide your reference using our form. In this way you help us to ensure that references are focused on similar questions and of similar length.

- If you are unable to use the Northern Bridge Consortium Reference Form, please ensure your reference is 500-750 words maximum and focused on doctoral preparedness, answering the questions below.

  - How long have you known the applicant and in what capacity?
  - What is your view of the applicant's preparedness for doctoral research, in terms of skills and experience, and the likelihood of timely completion of the project?
    - Use observations and specific examples or achievements rather than inference.
    - As appropriate, comment on how the applicant's professional experience has prepared them for doctoral study.
    - As appropriate, comment on the applicant's predicted Master's result, including information on individual modules where relevant to the subject of the research proposal.
  - Are there contextual factors that are relevant to the applicant's performance and potential? Such factors might include, for example, being the first in their family to go to university or being a carer. If the contextual factors could be seen as personal information, should you seek the applicant's consent before including them?

- Referees are reminded that references should **not** be sent to the applicant. Either the applicant or their host institution will provide you with details about return of the reference.

Lost/Unavailable Transcripts

- Each year we receive queries from applicants returning to Higher Education after a lengthy period of time, and concerned about the following:

    o They have proof of their qualifications but no transcripts.
    o They no longer have proof of their qualifications or transcripts.
    o The degree-awarding institution has since closed or has stated a substantial period of time before proof of qualifications or transcripts can be produced.

- In such instances, for the purposes of the Nomination Form, the NBCDTP will accept evidence of the award of the degree only, and/or an appended explanation as to why transcripts or evidence of qualifications is not available.

- In such instances, the choice of referee and the content of the reference is vital. Either a referee should be able to speak to the applicant's past academic performance, or be clear on the applicant's preparedness for doctoral research in terms their research skills and experience.

- Please note, however, that local Postgraduate Admissions Services may have different requirements and applicants without the necessary evidence must contact the Service at their local institution for further guidance.

Students Currently Taking a Master's Degree

- A provisional transcript is required that indicates marks attained to-date.

- Again, if this is not available, consider carefully the choice of referee and the content of the reference, which should address the applicant's past academic performance, or be clear on the applicant's preparedness for doctoral research.

Where the Transcripts are in a Language other than English

- **English translations** of the transcripts and evidence of previous qualifications must be provided.

- Schools or departments are responsible for submitting the complete Nomination Form to: **northernbridge.admin@newcastle.ac.uk** **by 16:00 on Tuesday 21 February 2023.**

- The local NBCDTP administrator (listed below) should be copied into the submission.

- Please attach a completed **Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form**. This will be separated from the Nomination Form before the nomination is circulated for review. Subject Area Scrutiny Panel members will not view the Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form.

- The NBCDTP is required to submit anonymised statistics to the AHRC on EDI characteristics for all nominees and those who are successful. The NBCDTP administrator at Newcastle University will be able to identify who the Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form belongs to, solely for the purposes of being able to make this distinction. All information reported to the AHRC and to the Studentships Committee will be anonymised.

- Incomplete nominations will not be considered under any circumstances.

- Amended or missing attachments (e.g., 'updated' proposals or references) received after the deadline will not be accepted.

- Full nominations received after the deadline will not be considered under any circumstances.

- The full nomination should be submitted as one complete PDF in the order below and named according to the following convention:

  NomineeSurname+Initial_SubjectArea_Institution, e.g. SmithJ_Linguistics_QUB.

  And in the following order:

	The Nomination Form
Attachment 1	A **Maximum** of **Two** References.
Attachment 2	Undergraduate and Postgraduate Transcripts (*for exceptions see "Transcripts and Previous Qualifications" section above*)
Attachment 3	Collaborative Doctoral Awards Only: A letter from the partner organisation confirming that they support the nominee, and are committed to providing the support stated.
Attachment 4	Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form

Local NBCDTP Administrator Contact Details

Durham University	northernbridge.admin@durham.ac.uk
Newcastle University	northernbridge.admin@newcastle.ac.uk
Northumbria University	northernbridge.admin@northumbria.ac.uk
Queen's University Belfast	northernbridge.admin@qub.ac.uk
University of Sunderland	faci-research@sunderland.ac.uk
Teesside University	research@tees.ac.uk
Ulster University	northernbridge.admin@ulster.ac.uk

- Schools and departments select their strongest applicants to proceed to the nomination stage of the Open Competition.[12] Those nominees will then complete and collate the Nomination Form with the support of their supervisory and professional services team.

- Schools and departments convene their own internal Subject Area Scrutiny or Selection Panels. NBCDTP encourage schools and departments to do so in line with EDI best practice.

- Schools and departments are encouraged to use the NBCDTP Marking Scheme and Assessment Criteria when selecting their nominees.

- Schools and departments are asked to maintain a record of decisions, including reasons for the selection or rejection of applicants. This information is not required by the NBCDTP but recommended in the event of a Freedom of Information request.

- Schools and departments are responsible for notifying all applicants who have indicated a wish to be considered for nomination whether they have been successful or not.

- NBCDTP academic directors and administrators are not responsible for the selection of nominees at school or department-level and take no part in this process. They cannot advise applicants whether they have been selected to go through to the nomination stage.

- Schools and departments can set their own internal deadlines for the completion of all parts of the Nomination Form and the receipt of references and other required documentation such as transcripts. This deadline is likely to be earlier than Tuesday 15 February 2023 and applicants must make themselves aware of it.

Cross-Institutional Subject Area Scrutiny Panels

- Following the receipt of all Nomination Forms, NBCDTP asks subject areas to review nominations in their subject area.

- Each institution nominates a Subject Area Lead (SAL) for each subject area they offer. SALs from each institution constitute a Subject Area Scrutiny Panel. Scrutiny Panels meet to assess all nominations in their subject area, coming to a collective decision and a collective set of feedback.

  We ask that Subject Area Scrutiny Panels consider the following:

  o Panels should take into account EDI in their composition;
  o Panels should include a mixture of early and later career stage academics;

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[12] On average, less than 1 in 4 nominations are ultimately successful. That figure drops, however, for particular schools and departments that put forward large numbers of nominations. We strongly encourage local schools and departments to nominate only the very strongest applications, and to be mindful of the burdens that large numbers of nominations create for smaller schools and departments across the partner institutions.

- Individual assessors must ensure they have no conflict of interest with individual applications; if they have, they must refrain from being part of the assessment of those applications;
- If assessing a Creative Practice application, the panel must contain at least one Creative Practitioner.

The Responsibilities of the Scrutiny Panel

- In agreeing to participate as a Subject Area Scrutiny Panel member, academic colleagues are confirming that they will be available to review nominations over the period **Thursday 23 February to Tuesday 14 March 2023**, and committed to submitting a complete set of marks and comments no later than **16:00 on Tuesday 14 March 2023**.

- Full nominations (minus the Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form) will be made available to every member of the relevant Subject Area Scrutiny Panel on **Thursday 23 February 2023**.

- Each Subject Area Scrutiny Panel will also receive an Excel spreadsheet listing all nominees they are required to assess against a grid for recording marks and comments.

- We request that panels use the Excel spreadsheet provided to aid the accurate transfer of marks and comments to the NBCDTP record of overall results.

- Marks and comments should be jointly agreed by all members of the Panel before the completed Excel spreadsheet is returned to the NBCDTP.

Access to Nominations for Subject Area Scrutiny Panel Reviewers

- Access will be via OneDrive (SharePoint).

- All Subject Area Scrutiny Panel memebrs will be invited to a shared space on Microsoft OneDrive, **in advance of nominations being made in available**.

The Assessment of Interdisciplinary Nominations (see also 'Information for Interdisciplinary Applicants' guidance notes above)

- Eligible nominations will be assessed by a specially convened Interdisciplinary Panels with the relevant expertise (subject area, interdisciplinary studies, creative practice and collaborative projects). There are three Interdisciplinary Panels, one for each AHRC disciplinary cluster. Interdisciplinary panels are asked to consider the NBCDTP definition of interdisciplinary research in making their assessment. Nominations that are inappropriately listed as interdisciplinary will be downgraded accordingly.

The Assessment of Creative Practice Nominations (see also 'Information for Creative Practice Applicants' guidance notes above)

- Subject Area Scrutiny Panels considering nominations in Creative Practice must consult the portfolios and consider the practice methodologies articulated in section 6.

What Happens When Marks and Comments are Returned to the NBCDTP

- The scores and comments are considered by the Moderation Sub-Committee to ensure consistency, and to confirm a final ranked list of all nominations for consideration by the Studentships Committee. In exceptional circumstances, the Moderation Sub-committee may seek external advice if they judge it appropriate to do so.

- The Studentships Committee comprises the NBCDTP academic directors, interdisciplinary, collaborative, and creative practice representatives, and an external academic representative from each of the AHRC's three disciplinary clusters. The Studentship Committee will confirm the final rankings from which the awards will be made and identify a list of candidates to be placed on a reserve list.

- The outcome of the Studentship Competition will be communicated to nominees **from Tuesday 11 April 2023** (subject to individual institutional processes) by the relevant school or department in the nominee's **host institution**.

- Should a successful nominees decline an award, the next highest-ranked nominee on the reserve list will be made an offer of an award, **regardless of the host institution of the original recipient**.

Please note: Subject Area Scrutiny Panels should be aware of, and sympathetic to, the fact that applicants will come from a diverse range of backgrounds, including those with experience in practice or industry. NBCDTP is fully committed to Widening Participation (WP) and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI), and is actively supporting, though its positive action initiatives, the diversification of its staff and student cohort. It asks Panels to be mindful of issues surrounding WP and EDI when Part 1 of the Nomination Form. We also ask panels to be open-minded about different research approaches and perspectives within a given subject areas and that each nomination is assessed on its own academic merits. Finally, we would also ask individual assessors to ensure they have no conflict of interest with nominations and, if they do have such conflicts, to refrain from being part of the assessment of those individual nominations. Panel members should follow standard procedures for identifying conflicts of interest. For clarity, this is a *personal* conflict of interest (e.g., a family connection to the application, or involvement in the supervision team). Panel members will contribute to discussions of applications from their own institutions provided they do not have a personal conflict of interest.

General Guidance on the Evaluation of Nominations

- Consider the full Nomination Form and the supporting documentation.

- Scores should be explained in (**and be consistent with**) your comments, which should be sufficiently extensive for the Moderation and Studentships committees to understand how the score was arrived at.

- A common issue that might disadvantage a nominee is a Subject Area Scrutiny Panel's failing to justify a set of particularly high (or low) marks in their comments.

- Comments **must** address all four areas of the Nomination Form: **Applicant**, **Research Proposal, Supervision**, and **Training and Development**. Please ensure that your comments match the grade descriptors for the mark you award, and that you make reference to each of these four areas in your comments.

- Please bear in mind that while formal academic qualifications are important indicators of academic achievement and potential, comparable consideration should be made to nominees with less conventional academic profiles, for example, mature nominees with significant and distinguished careers in creative arts or other professional practice.

References Provided by Prospective Supervisors

- The guidance above states:

    "Applicants are strongly urged to identify referees who are independent of their proposed supervisory team, unless the applicant is already registered on the PhD programme. Prospective supervisors may provide a reference, but risk

disadvantaging a candidate as this may be perceived by assessors as a conflict of interest."

Please be aware that for some students, the potential supervisor is the best or only viable referee, and in such cases the judgement of the referee should be respected in line with the assumption of academic integrity underpinning the NBCDTP evaluation process.

Nominations to the NBCDTP Studentship Competition will be assessed strictly according to the following criteria:

- The quality of the nominee, including their past academic and/or professional performance and experience, likely future performance, and their preparedness for doctoral study in terms of relevant research skills and experience.

- The quality of the research proposal, including the clarity and cogency of the research questions, awareness of relevant research in the field, the sources to be used, and the appropriateness of the proposed approach/methodology.

- The coherence, importance and viability of the proposed research, and in particular the feasibility of completion within 42 months (or 84 months part-time).

- The fit of the supervisory team, including supervisors' subject expertise in relation to the proposed research; ability to develop nominee's skills and professional competence; evidence of ability to successfully supervise doctoral students across the supervisory team; and any involvement in postgraduate training. In identifying supervisory teams, nominees and supervisors should consider the full spectrum of expertise available across the NBCDTP.[13]

- The degree to which the Nomination Form provides a detailed account of how the specific training and development needs of the nominee will be met.

- The quality of the research environment across the NBCDTP, in terms of school/ departmental research strengths, interdisciplinary research groups, clusters, centres, institutes, and external partnerships, as well as the ways in which the nominee will be integrated into this environment.

In addition to the above, Collaborative Doctoral Award nominations will be assessed according to the following criteria:

- The contribution the project will make to the operations of the partner organisation.

- The fit of the supervisors from the partner organisation.

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[13] It is worth stressing that, as noted above, cross-institutional supervision is not a requirement; no penalty attaches either way.

- The account of the quality of skills development opportunities offered by the partner organisation, and how they will meet the specific training and development needs of the nominee.

- The quality of the research environment, in terms of research priorities, facilities and resources at the partner organisation.

The criteria to be used to evaluate nominations are indicated below.

THE MARKING SCHEME AND ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Subject Area Scrutiny Panels are kindly asked to grade and comment on four aspects of the nomination:

- Applicant (16);
- Research Proposal (32);
- Supervision (12);
- Training and Development and Research Environment (12);

Giving an aggregate score out of 72.

Nominations that score below 50% of the mark in any area will automatically be considered ineligible for funding.

Applicant

In assessing the suitability of the applicant for an NBCDTP doctoral award, assessors should consider the following:

- Do the applicant's skills and qualifications and/or creative/ professional experience (particularly for applicants with non-standard academic trajectories) demonstrate their outstanding potential and preparedness for the proposed doctoral research?

- Do referees focus on the particular abilities of the applicant that make them suitable for postgraduate research, and do they support the applicant unreservedly? Do referees describe any special circumstances or contextual factors of the applicant that should be taken into account?

Grade	Descriptor
13-16	An *outstanding* applicant: Full evidence is provided of outstanding past academic, practice or professional achievement, signalling extremely strong potential and outstanding preparedness for doctoral study. To be funded as a matter of utmost priority.
11-12	An *excellent* applicant: Excellence is fully evidenced in terms of academic, practice or professional achievement, signalling strong potential, and a very high level of preparedness for doctoral study. To be funded as a matter of priority, though does not merit the highest priority rating.
9-10	A *strong* applicant: Solid evidence of very good past academic, practice or professional performance and potential, and a high level of preparedness for doctoral study. Deserving of consideration for funding.
5-8	A *good* applicant: Evidence of good past academic, practice or professional achievement and potential is provided, and the candidate is reasonably well prepared for doctoral study. But in the highly competitive context of the NBCDTP competition, it is not possible to be considered for funding.
3-4	An applicant with some strengths but about whom there are reservations concerning past academic, practice or professional achievements, potential for original independent research, or preparedness for doctoral study. Not recommended for funding.
1-2	An applicant who falls significantly short of the expected standards in one or more areas. Not suitable for funding.

Research Proposal

In assessing the quality of the research proposal, assessors should consider the following:

- **Research questions**: Are the research question(s) or problem(s) clearly defined? How important is it that these questions should be addressed? How timely are they?

- **Research context**: What other research is being, or has been, conducted in this area? What particular contribution will this project make to the advancement of knowledge and understanding in the field? Has the applicant placed their proposal in an appropriate context, giving due consideration to other work in the field?

- **Research methods:** How, during the PhD, will the applicant seek to answer the questions or address the problems? Is there an adequate rationale for their chosen research methods? Do the research methods provide an appropriate means by which to answer the research question(s)? Is the research likely to raise ethical or safety issues and, if so, are these addressed in the proposal?

- **Viability:** Does the applicant provide evidence that the project can be feasibly completed within up to three and a half years of full-time funded study or up to seven years of part-time funded study? Have the costs and resource implications of undertaking the fundamental research been adequately considered?

Grade	Descriptor
29-32	An *outstanding* research proposal: Research questions or problems are clear and cogent, and the proposal demonstrates a comprehensive awareness of the research context and of the contribution that the research will make to the field. The applicant has made a compelling case both for the intellectual and social importance of this research and for the choice of research methods or approach. The research is demonstrably feasible within the period of supervised study. Any ethical or safety issues have been identified and appropriately addressed. To be funded as a matter of the highest priority.
25-28	An *excellent research* proposal: Research questions or problems are clear and cogent, and the proposal demonstrates a sound awareness of the research context and of the contribution that the research will make to the field. The applicant carefully addresses the intellectual and social importance of the research and research methods or approach are well justified. The research is feasible within the period of supervised study, and any ethical or safety issues have been identified and appropriately addressed. To be funded as a matter of priority, though does not merit the highest priority rating.
21-24	A *very strong* research proposal: Research questions are clear and cogent, and the proposal demonstrates a sound awareness of the research context and of the contribution that the research will make to the field. The methodology or approach is appropriate, and the research is likely to be feasible within the period of supervised study. Any ethical or safety issues have been identified and appropriately addressed. Worthy of consideration for funding.

17-20	A *strong* research proposal: Research questions are clear, and the applicant demonstrates awareness of the research context and the contribution that the proposed research will make. Methods or approach seem appropriate and the research is probably feasible within the period of supervised study. Any ethical or safety issues have been identified and appropriately addressed. Fundable, but not as a matter of priority.
13-16	A *good* research proposal: Research questions are identified, and the proposal demonstrates some awareness of both the research context and the contribution the research will make. There is some awareness of its intellectual importance and methodological requirements. The research may be feasible within the period of supervised study and ethical or safety issues have been identified. In the competitive context of the NBCDTP competition, the proposal is not recommended for funding.
9-12	A research proposal with some strong aspects, but with weaknesses in one of the following areas: research questions/ problems, awareness of research context, contribution to the discipline, intellectual significance, methodology, feasibility, or ethical or safety considerations. Not fundable.
5-8	A research proposal with some strong aspects, but with weaknesses in more than one of more of the following areas: research questions/ problems, awareness of research context, contribution to the discipline, intellectual significance, methodology, feasibility, or ethical or safety considerations. Not fundable.
1-4	A research proposal with serious shortcomings in one or more areas. Not fundable.

Supervision

This section of the Nomination Form should comment on the suitability of the supervisory team, noting the ability of the supervisory team to successfully supervise the project and, where appropriate, any plans for mentoring, training or support for supervisors. Research expertise and publications that are relevant to the applicant's project can be included, however it is not advisable to concentrate on the supervisors' research excellence to the detriment of demonstrating the excellence of the fit between supervisor and research project. When considering the supervisory team, and training and development requirements, schools/departments may look beyond their own institution in order to identify possibilities for cross-consortium supervision. There is no requirement to do so, however, and nominees will not be penalised either way.

A strong application will be one in which the supervisors have expertise in an area closely related to the applicant's proposal and where, in the case of Collaborative Doctoral Awards, there is clear evidence that the student will be strongly supported by the partner organisation. A strong application will also have considered the opportunities available across the NBCDTP, and built these into the nomination where they add value. In a weak application, the supervisor will not be expert in the area.

Wherever possible, Subject Area Scrutiny Panels are asked to take into consideration that the NBCDTP seeks to support research at *all* partner institutions. As part of that aim, it actively values the distinct research environments of each partner institution and, moreover, seeks to support the building of capacity across the partner institutions, including supporting the development of early career supervisors and others who have not had the opportunity to supervise PhD students.

The Descriptors below also include criteria pertinent to Student-led Collaborative Doctoral Awards (in italics).

Grade	Descriptor
11-12	An *outstandingly close* fit between supervisory expertise and the proposed project, and an excellent track record commensurate with the supervisors' career stage and institutional context. To be funded as a matter of the highest priority. *Expertise of the Partner organisation supervisor(s) is outstanding, and very closely aligned with the needs of the project and student.*
9-10	An *excellent* fit between supervisory expertise and the proposed project and a strong track record commensurate with the supervisors' career stage and institutional context. To be funded as a priority, though does not merit the highest priority rating. *Expertise of the Partner organisation supervisor(s) is fully appropriate and closely aligned with the needs of the project and student.*
7-8	A *strong* supervisory fit. Worthy of consideration for funding. *Expertise of the Partner organisation supervisor(s) is appropriate and reasonably well aligned with the needs of the project and student.*
5-6	A *good* supervisory fit, but may lack a track record of supervision commensurate with career stage. In the competitive context of the NBCDTP competition, not possible to be considered for funding. *Expertise of the Partner organisation supervisor(s) is acceptable, but may not be aligned with the needs of the project and student.*

3-4	Supervisory arrangements that have some strengths, but with weaknesses in fit between the project and expertise of the supervisory team and a lack of track record commensurate with career stage. Not appropriate for funding. *Expertise of the Partner organisation supervisor(s) is neither relevant/appropriate nor aligned with the needs of the project and student.*
1-2	Significant shortcomings in one or more areas; not suitable for funding.

Training and Research Environment

The nomination should address the ways in which the research strengths of the school/department, as well as any interdisciplinary research groups, clusters, centres, and institutes, specialised facilities/resources, and external partnerships are relevant to the applicant's research project. It should also specify how the applicant will be integrated into this environment. This section of the Nomination Form should also identify any skills training and professional development needed for the successful completion of the research project. This should be specific to the applicant and their project; **please do not include general statements about the generic skills training available within the NBCDTP or your Department/School**. When considering training and development requirements, schools/departments are advised to look beyond their own institution in order to identify possibilities for research group participation and training opportunities, including those provided by external organisations.

A strong application will be where: the applicant will be well integrated into the school/department and/or appropriate interdisciplinary structures, and, in the case of collaborative doctoral awards, into the research culture of the partner organisation; facilities or resources are available to support the applicant's research; and the applicant's training needs have been fully considered, along with a clear sense of how these will be met. A strong application will also have considered the opportunities available across the NBCDTP and built these into the nomination where appropriate. In a weak application, the school/department or partner organisation will not be a suitable host for the proposed research and/or there will be no interdisciplinary structures to provide a supportive research environment. A weaker application may be characterised by limited consideration of the training needs of the applicant, which may constrain their ability to conduct the research. A weaker application may also lack awareness of the relevant research environment, resources, and training opportunities elsewhere in the NBCDTP.

Once again, Subject Area Scrutiny Panels are asked to take into consideration that the NBCDTP seeks to support research at all partner institutions. As part of that aim, it actively values the distinct research environments of each partner institution. Research environments vary for many reasons (including their capacity to attract self-funded PhD students). We ask reviewers to recognise that size alone is not necessarily a good indicator of quality. A relatively small department with a cluster of researchers highly appropriate to the project may be a better environment than a much larger department that lacks a close connection to the applicant's work.

The Descriptors below also includes criteria pertinent to Collaborative Doctoral Awards (Student-led) in italics:

Grade	Descriptor
11-12	*Outstanding* research environment: Clear and compelling evidence that the applicant will be extremely well integrated into appropriate research groups/clusters/centres/institutes, and that their training and development needs have been fully considered. To be funded as a matter of the highest priority. *Compelling evidence that the applicant will be extremely well integrated into the research environment of the Partner organisation. There is a clear and compelling sense that the development opportunities offered by the Partner organisation are outstandingly appropriate.*

9-10	*Excellent* research environment: Evidence that the applicant will be very well integrated into appropriate research groups/clusters/centres/institutes. The majority of the applicant's training and development needs have been carefully considered. To be funded as a priority, though does not merit the highest priority rating. *Evidence that the applicant will be very well integrated into the research environment of the Partner organisation. The development opportunities offered by the Partner organisation are excellent.*
7-8	A *strong* research environment: A strong sense that the applicant will be well integrated into appropriate research groups/clusters/centres/institutes. Some of the applicant's training and development needs have been considered. Worthy of consideration for funding. *A strong sense that the student will be well integrated into the research environment of the Partner organisation. The Partner organisation offers appropriate development opportunities.*
5-6	A *good* research environment: Evidence that there are research groups/clusters/centres/institutes into which the applicant could be integrated. Training needs have been addressed, but cursorily. In the competitive context of the NBCDTP competition, not possible to be considered for funding. *Evidence that there is a research environment at the Partner organisation into which the applicant may be integrated. The development opportunities offered by the Partner organisation are limited.*
3-4	A research environment that has some strengths, but with weaknesses in respect of school or departmental research strengths or interdisciplinary infrastructure. Insufficient attention given to research training needs. Not appropriate for funding. *Involvement of the Partner organisation in terms of research environment and development opportunities is not relevant/inadequate.*
1-2	Significant shortcomings in one or more areas; not suitable for funding.

Guidance for Subject Area Scrutiny Panel Comments

Subject Area Scrutiny Panels are reminded that comments **must** address all four areas of the Nomination Form: **Applicant**, **Research Proposal, Supervision**, and **Training and Development**. Please ensure that your comments match the grade descriptors for the mark you award, and that you make reference to each of these four areas in your comments.

We provide here examples of good practice of Subject Area Scrutiny Panel comments. These have been anonymised, but are otherwise taken verbatim from Subject Area Scrutiny Panel review comments. **Please note** that different scoring systems were used in previous years of the competition (12 for applicant and proposal, 6 for supervisor and environment; we have since shifted to a 16, 32, 12, 12 format).

<u>Sample Comments</u>

Applicant 12: Outstanding achievement with 82 average in final year UG at University of xxx (79% overall) and current average of 77% in MA; second BA graduate in literary studies at University of xxx 2013 and currently top-performing in MA literary studies cohort at xxx University. **Proposal 11:** Outstanding: proposal identifies a new and potentially very valuable direction in 20thc xxx studies. The combination of formal literary and historico-political approaches is challenging and ambitious, but the outline shows a clear grasp of what's at stake based on project's strong foundations. **Supervisory Fit 6:** Cross-School supervision for this project with experienced and research active supervisors. **Training & Environment 6:** Outstanding environment and training needs excellently addressed.

Applicant 11: An outstanding candidate with a 2:1 (Hons) in XX as well as a truly unique skillset. The extensive and highly relevant work and research experience go well above and beyond what is required to make up for the lack of a Masters degree. In particular, the candidate has 26 years' experience in XX Museum, supported by a solid reference, as well as high level commissions and academic research-related contributions, including a 'Critically Endangered' award. Overall the candidate demonstrates an excellent capacity and access to the resources to provide lasting impact from this research. **Proposal 12:** The proposal is unique, specific, and based on outstanding practical experience. The candidate's passion for this research area is made clear throughout the proposal as well as in the provided reference. The research questions are clear and an important part of XX's heritage, being all the more important as this is currently critically endangered and may be lost if this work is not carried out. **Supervisory Fit 6:** The supervisory team is a fantastic fit and includes a mix of career stages and experiences in supervision. **Training & Environment 6:** The chosen university is a perfect fit to this project, as regionally this topic has a particular relevance and the research expertise resides in X university.

Applicant 10: A strong candidate with some very high marks, but really let down by one exceptionally short reference (4 lines!). **Proposal 9:** Archival research is not a methodology. An interesting idea for a proposal but not as well organised or conveyed as some others; there's limited sense of the broader significance of the topic, and the comparative aspect could have been explained more. **Supervisory Fit 4:** Supervisory statement is quite broad and the supervisors' expertise has not been related particularly closely to the specific topics to be explored in the proposal. **Training & Environment 4:** Limited analysis of training needs though good to see that there is consideration of museum and curatorial skills. Good research environment statement. 10/9/4

Introduction

The Northern Bridge Consortium Doctoral Training Partnership (NBCDTP) awards AHRC funding to support Doctoral Training in the Arts and Humanities. This includes a stipend and payment of tuition fees, and additional funding to support activities associated with primary research, such as fieldwork and data collection; participation in specialist training events; and placements in non-HE organisations.

The NBCDTP facilitates the distribution of additional AHRC funding (for example, Innovation Placements), and can run competitions for funding on behalf of external agencies (for example, selecting candidates for AHRC Creative Economy Engagement Postdoctoral Fellowships).

In order to run a rigorous studentship competition and manage studentships across a partnership encompassing seven Universities, the NBCDTP processes personal data. Please read the privacy information below for details.

Please note: postgraduate application data will be processed separately by the institution you have applied to, in accordance with their terms and conditions.

PART 1 – GENERIC PRIVACY NOTICE

The NBCDTP and the universities of Durham, Newcastle, Northumbria, Queen's Belfast, Sunderland, Teesside, and Ulster hold responsibilities under data protection legislation which include the duty to ensure that we provide individuals with information about how we process personal data. We do this in a number of ways, one of which is the publication of privacy notices. Our privacy notices comprise two parts – a generic part and a part tailored to the specific processing activity being undertaken.

Data Controller

The Data Controller for your data is the University to which you applied. If you would like more information about how your university uses your personal data, please visit your university's Information Governance webpages, or contact the following:

University	Telephone	Email
Durham University Information Governance Unit	(0191 33) 46246 or 46103	info.access@durham.ac.uk
Newcastle University Records Management	(0191) 208 6000	rec-man@ncl.ac.uk
Northumbria University	0191 243 7357	dp.officer@northumbria.ac.uk
Queen's University Belfast Information Compliance Unit	028 9097 2505	info.compliance@qub.ac.uk
Teesside University Data Protection Officer	01642 342093	dpo@tees.ac.uk

Ulster University Data Protection		gdpr@ulster.ac.uk
University of Sunderland Information Governance Unit	(0)191 515 2000	dataprotection@sunderland.ac.uk

Data Protection Officer

The Data Protection Officer is responsible for advising a university on compliance with Data Protection legislation and monitoring its performance against it. If you have any concerns regarding the way in which the university is processing your personal data, please contact the Data Protection Officer at the appropriate university:

University	Officer	Contact
Durham University	Jennifer Sewel University Secretary	(0191 33) 46144 jennifer.sewel@durham.ac.uk
Newcastle University	Information Security Officer (Compliance)	rec-man@ncl.ac.uk
Northumbria University	Duncan James Northumbria' s Records and Information Manager	duncan.james@northumbria.ac.uk
Queen's University Belfast	Michelle Beegan / Derek Weir Information Compliance Officers	028 9097 2505 info.compliance@qub.ac.uk
Teesside University	University's Data Protection Officer	01642 342093 dpo@tees.ac.uk
Ulster University	Mr Eamon Mullan Data Protection Co-ordinator	028 7012 3502 e.mullan@ulster.ac.uk
University of Sunderland	Sam Seldon Data Protection Officer	dataprotection@sunderland.ac.uk

Retention

Each university keeps personal data for as long as it is needed for the purpose for which it was originally collected. Most of these time periods are set out in each university's records retention schedule.

Your Rights in Relation to Your Personal Data

Privacy Notices and/or Consent

You have the right to be provided with information about how and why we process your personal data. Where you have the choice to determine how your personal data will be used, we will ask you for consent. Where you do not have a choice (for example, where we have a legal obligation to process the personal data), we will provide you with a privacy notice. A privacy notice is a verbal or written statement that explains how we use personal data.

Whenever you give your consent for the processing of your personal data, you receive the right to withdraw that consent at any time. Where withdrawal of consent will have an impact on the services we are able to provide, this will be explained to you, so that you can determine whether it is the right decision for you.

Accessing Your Personal Data

You have the right to be told whether we are processing your personal data and, if so, to be given a copy of it. This is known as the Right of Subject Access. You can find out more about this right on each University's Subject Access Requests webpages:

- Durham University
- Newcastle University
- Northumbria University
- Queen's University Belfast
- Teesside University
- Ulster University
- University of Sunderland

Right to Rectification

If you believe that personal data we hold about you is inaccurate, please contact your university and the NBCDTP and we will investigate. You can also request that we complete any incomplete data.

Once we have determined what we are going to do, we will contact you to let you know.

Right to Erasure

You can ask us to erase your personal data in any of the following circumstances:

- We no longer need the personal data for the purpose it was originally collected;
- You withdraw your consent and there is no other legal basis for the processing;
- You object to the processing and there are no overriding legitimate grounds for the processing;
- The personal data have been unlawfully processed;
- The personal data have to be erased for compliance with a legal obligation;
- The personal data have been collected in relation to the offer of information society services (information society services are online services such as banking or social media sites).

Once we have determined whether we will erase the personal data, we will contact you to let you know.

Right to Restriction of Processing

You can ask us to restrict the processing of your personal data in the following circumstances:

- You believe that the data is inaccurate and you want us to restrict processing until we determine whether it is indeed inaccurate;
- The processing is unlawful and you want us to restrict processing rather than erase it;

- We no longer need the data for the purpose we originally collected it but you need it in order to establish, exercise or defend a legal claim;
- You have objected to the processing and you want us to restrict processing until we determine whether our legitimate interests in processing the data override your objection.

Once we have determined how we propose to restrict processing of the data, we will contact you to discuss and, where possible, agree this with you.

Making a Complaint

If you are unsatisfied with the way in which we process your personal data, we ask that you let us know so that we can try and put things right. If we are not able to resolve issues to your satisfaction, you can refer the matter to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). The ICO can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Telephone: 0303 123 1113
Website: Information Commissioner's Office

PART 2 – PRIVACY NOTICE FOR THE NBCDTP

This section of the Privacy Notice provides you with the privacy information that you need to know before you provide personal data to your University which, by virtue of your application for a NBCDTP studentship award, will be processed by the NBCDTP for the particular purposes stated below.

Type(s) of Personal Data Collected and Held by the NBCDTP and Method of Collection

We hold your name, address and contact details as you have provided in your NBCDTP Studentship Nomination Form. The NBCDTP will also have a record of your University ID. Application details processed by the NBCDTP may further include personal data provided to your university in relation to your age, disability, gender identity, marital status, race, religion, sex or sexual orientation depending on the requirements of the institution. For the purposes of transparency, it should be noted that personal data are not used to inform any decisions around funding, but rather are provided in an anonymised form to the AHRC, and thereby to UKRI, to ensure the funding councils can work towards their Equality and Diversity targets.

Legal Basis

The NBCDTP processes your data prior to, during, and for a period after a programme of study under the basis of your consent, which you will provide to your proposed supervisor and university.

We are required to demonstrate our support for students with disabilities, and for this we need to request and hold Special Category data and medical evidence, which we process under our legal obligations to the Equality Act 2010.

Anonymised data on select categories of protected characteristics will be provided to UK Research and Innovation via the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) to inform progress against their widening participation and Equality and Diversity policies, in line with their funding requirements.

The NBCDTP processes data in respect of statutory obligations, which is part of its public task.

We may also use your personal information where we need to protect your (or someone else's) interests or where it is in the public interest. When we process your personal information we will do so provided your fundamental rights do not override those interests.

How Personal Data is Stored by the NBCDTP

Personal data will be held by the NBCDTP for the duration of the annual studentship competition on secure servers within the seven participating universities, with access limited to NBCDTP administrators and approved academics. Application data will be shared via secure password-protected links with members of academic staff within our seven partner institutions, and with a limited pool of external reviewers, for the purposes of awarding AHRC monies.

After the conclusion of the studentship competition, application data will be held by the host university in accordance with local policy and practice, but may be shared with NBCDTP administrative staff and academics where appropriate to manage the studentship and support applications for additional monies (for example, overseas fieldwork, difficult language training, Disabled Students Allowance).

Student data is also held locally by academic departments, colleges and professional support services in email, network storage and paper files.

Details of the successful candidates' projects will be shared with the AHRC, who will then post the project details along with the name of the candidate on the Gateway to Research (as per the terms and conditions of accepting the offer of a studentship).

How Personal Data is Processed by the NBCDTP

- Provided to academic reviewing panels to make informed and appropriate academic decisions on funding and allocation of NBCDTP and AHRC grant monies;
- Administering study, such as recording of achievements, determination of award and monitoring of attendance;
- Administering finance, such as payment of fees;
- Monitoring equal opportunities;
- Processing student academic appeals and student discipline cases;
- Direct mailing of or about (i) student benefits and opportunities offered by or through the NBCDTP and (ii) NBCDTP or partner university activities and events organised for students.

Who the NBCDTP Shares Personal Data With

The NBCDTP will disclose personal data to the AHRC and UK Research and Innovation in accordance with the grant terms and conditions and meeting reporting requirements.

The NBCDTP will disclose personal data to the NBCDTP Moderation Sub-committee and Studentships Committee, comprising of a limited pool of internal and external reviewers, for the purposes of allocating AHRC studentships.

The NBCDTP may share details relating to student illness or special cases with the AHRC and NBCDTP Academic Directors where the nature of the issue may impact upon NBCDTP funding.

How Long Personal Data is Held by the NBCDTP

Administering study, (successful applications, academic progress, transfers and withdrawals)	7 years after the end of the AHRC NBCDTP grant
Handling of enquiries from prospective students	1 year after current year
Conduct and results of disciplinary proceedings and academic appeals	In line with the host institution's policy
Processing of tuition fees and scholarship funds	7 years after the end of the AHRC NBCDTP grant
Administration of research grants provided by research councils or corporate sponsors	7 years after the end of the AHRC NBCDTP grant

How to Object to the NBCDTP Processing Your Personal Data:

Any concerns, queries or complaints relating to the potential misuse of data by the NBCDTP should be sent to the NBCDTP Administrators in the first instance; this should not include concerns around institutional use of data, which should be addressed to the relevant point of contact within the individual institution.

NBCDTP Administrators
Newcastle University
northernbridge.admin@newcastle.ac.uk

Visitors to Our Website/Webpages:

When someone visits **www.northernbridge.ac.uk** we use a third party service, Google Analytics, to collect standard internet log information and details of visitor behaviour patterns. We do this to find out things such as the number of visitors to the various parts of the site. This information is only processed in a way which does not identify anyone. We do not make, and do not allow Google to make, any attempt to find out the identities of those visiting our website. If we do want to collect personally identifiable information through our website, we will be transparent about this. We will make it clear when we collect personal information and will explain what we intend to do with it.

Use of Cookies by the NBCDTP

A cookie is a simple text file that is stored on your computer or mobile device by a website's server and only that server will be able to retrieve or read the contents of that cookie. Cookies allow websites to remember user preferences, choices and selections, such as what's in your shopping basket. The NBCDTP does not use cookies to collect personal information about you.

Links to Other Websites

This privacy notice does not cover the links within this site linking to other websites. We encourage you to read the privacy statements on the other websites you visit.

Changes to this Privacy Notice:

We regularly review our privacy information to ensure that it remains accurate and current. We will review and update this privacy information whenever we plan to use personal data for any new purpose. Any changes to this privacy information will be communicated to you.

Further information:

If you have any questions which you feel have not been covered by this Privacy Notice, please email us or write to:

NBCDTP Administrators
Newcastle University
northernbridge.admin@newcastle.ac.uk

The NBCDTP offers doctoral studentships only in the subject areas listed below. Not all subject areas are offered by each partner institution:

- Applied Arts: History, Theory and Practice
- Archaeology
- Architecture: History, Theory and Practice
- Asiatic and Oriental Studies
- Celtic Studies
- Classics
- Creative Writing
- Criminal Law and Criminology
- Cultural and Museum Studies
- Cultural Geography
- Design
- Development Studies
- Digital Arts: History, Theory and Practice
- Drama and Theatre Studies
- English Language and Literature
- Ethnography and Anthropology
- Film-based Media: History, Theory and Practice
- Fine Art: History, Theory and Practice
- French Studies
- German Studies (including Dutch and Yiddish)
- Hispanic, Portuguese and Latin American Studies
- History
- Information and Communication Technologies
- Interpreting and Translation
- Italian Studies
- Law and Legal Studies
- Library and Information Studies
- Linguistics
- Media and Communication Studies
- Music
- Philosophy
- Photography: History, Theory and Practice
- Policy, Arts Management and Creative Industries
- Political Science and International Studies
- Russian, Slavonic and East European Languages and Culture
- Theology, Divinity and Religion

Further Information and Contact Details

Arts and Humanities Research Council	https://www.ukri.org/what-we-offer/developing-people-and-skills/ahrc/
Northern Bridge Consortium Doctoral Training Partnership	www.northernbridge.ac.uk

Institution	NBCDTP Administrator	NBCDTP Academic Director
Durham University	northernbridge.admin@durham.ac.uk	northernbridge.director@durham.ac.uk
Newcastle University	northernbridge.admin@newcastle.ac.uk	NorthernBridgeDirector@newcastle.ac.uk
Northumbria University	northernbridge.admin@northumbria.ac.uk	matthew.potter@northumbria.ac.uk
University of Sunderland	faci-research@sunderland.ac.uk	andrew.livingstone@sunderland.ac.uk
Teesside University	k.metcalfe@tees.ac.uk	R.Carroll@tees.ac.uk
Queen's University Belfast	northernbridge.admin@qub.ac.uk	northernbridge.director@qub.ac.uk f.brearton@qub.ac.uk
Ulster University	northernbridge.admin@ulster.ac.uk	k.fleming@ulster.ac.uk

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