

2022 Competition Launch and Briefing

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NORTHERN BRIDGE
CONSORTIUM DOCTORAL
TRAINING
PARTNERSHIP



Arts and
Humanities
Research Council

What is the Northern Bridge Consortium?

- We are a Doctoral Training Partnership funded by the AHRC to administer PhD studentship funding.
- The partnership covers all of the universities in the NE of England and Northern Ireland: Durham, Newcastle, Northumbria, Queen's Belfast, Ulster, Sunderland & Teesside.
- We can fund PGR research in all of AHRC's disciplinary areas (except Scandinavian and Australasian Studies).
- As well as administering the studentship funding, we run a world-class training programme for our students.
- <http://www.northernbridge.ac.uk/>

The Directors

- Prof. Graeme Small, Academic Director, Durham University
- Dr Ian O'Flynn, Consortium Director and Academic Director, Newcastle University
- Dr David Stewart, Academic Director, Northumbria University
- Prof. Thérèse Murphy, Academic Director, Queen's University, Belfast
- Prof. Nigel Copsey, Academic Director, Teesside University
- Prof. Beryl Graham and Prof. Kevin Petrie, Academic Directors, University of Sunderland
- Prof. Karen Fleming, Academic Director, Ulster University

The Administrators

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Training

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

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

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

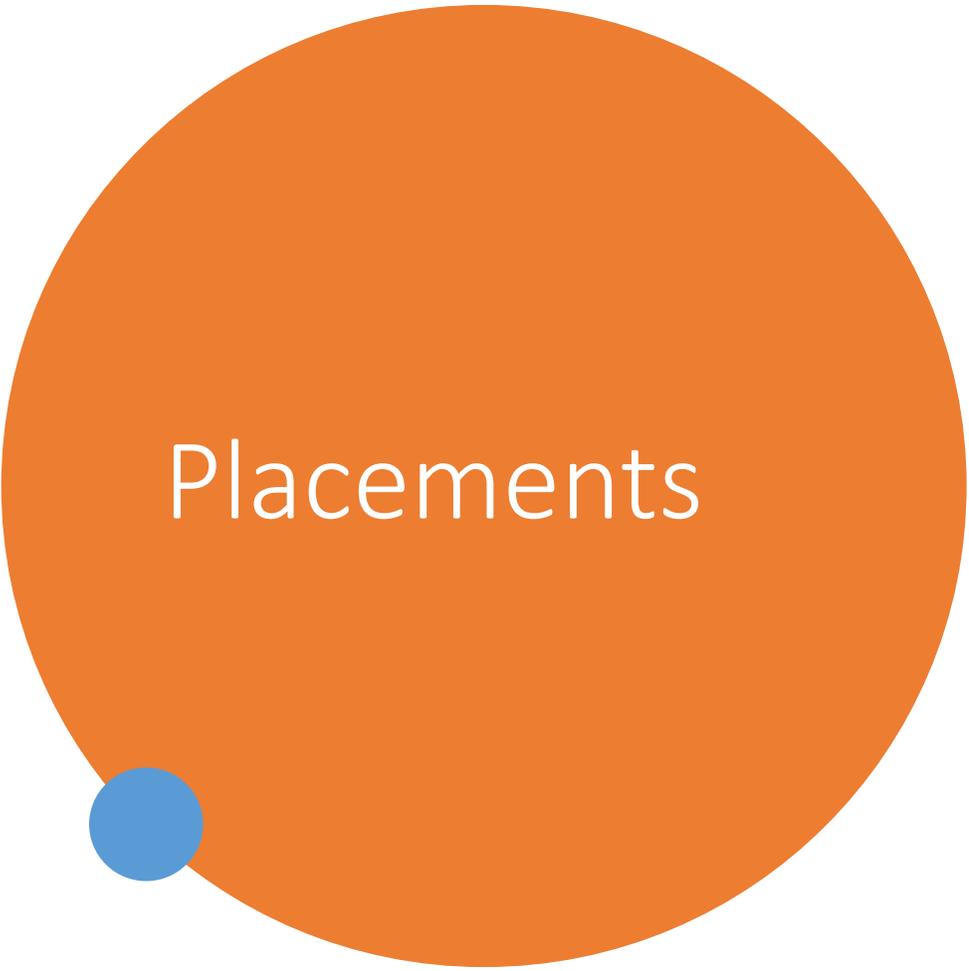
We aim to support training for skills suitable for academic and non-academic careers.

Student and staff funding opportunities

NBC students have several additional funding opportunities, including:

- Small and Large Research grants (to support fundamental research costs)
- Student Innovation Fund (enabling groups of NBC students to collaborate on an application to run an event/conference/residential/specialised training).

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



Placements

- Every Northern Bridge student has the opportunity to undertake a placement (minimum 21 working days; up to six months).
- This supports their skills development and training, widens their experience, and supports both academic and non-academic future careers.
- These placements are fully funded by NBC.

The 2022 Competition

- The 2022 competition is now open for applications.
- We will be awarding up to 67 studentships in total, up to 20% of which will be Staff-led Collaborative Doctoral Awards.
- Successful applicants will receive 3.5 years of fees & stipend funding, plus access to the additional funding streams.
- International (now including EU) applicants are welcome to apply and may be fully funded. Capped at 30%.
- As already noted, successful applicants will have the opportunity to undertake a placement during their programme of study.
- They will start their PhDs in October 2022.

Timeline

Competition opens 6 October 2022

12 January 2022 all applicants must have applied for a PhD place at their institution

Internal sifts take place to decide which applicants will go forward.

Wednesday 15 February 2022 nomination forms to NBC

By 14 March 2022 subject panels will have scored nomination forms

Moderation process and Studentship Committee

Thursday 4 April 2022 results announced

Supervision

- NBC seeks to support the best quality and expertise of supervision.
- Inclusion of all career stages in supervisory teams is encouraged.
- For interdisciplinary applications, would expect to see the relevant disciplines in the supervisory team.
- Supervisors can be from the same institution or from different institutions.
- Supervisor training will also be made available.

Collaborative Doctoral Awards

- Staff-led CDAs and Student-led CDAs.
- Up to 20% (approx. 13 awards) per year will be reserved for staff-led CDAs (2 Nov. deadline).
- All CDAs require an external partner, a representative of which will be on the supervisory team.
- Projects must demonstrate benefits for that partner, as well as the student and university.
- No restriction on the external partner but they must be non-HEI.
- No financial commitment is required from the external partner organisation.

Interdisciplinary Applications

- We encourage interdisciplinary applications.
- We ask applicants to limit themselves to indicating TWO disciplines formally, although others can be brought out in the project proposal part of the nomination form.
- We would expect to see the interdisciplinarity of any project expressed in the methodologies as well as the research questions.
- We would also expect to see supervisory teams that represent & bridge disciplines.

Creative Practice Applications

- We encourage Creative Practice applications.
- We recognize that applicants may be applying after careers in professional practice and other areas and have been working out of academia for some time.
- Applicants nominated in Creative Practice-based areas are required to supply a URL to a portfolio of outputs which may be accessed by assessors for contextual information only.
- The portfolio is not a 'quality' check but rather allows applicants to demonstrate how their creative work represents an appropriate methodology for addressing their research questions and their preparedness for doctoral study



Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

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

Support – briefings & masterclasses

- There are a range of support events for both applicants and potential supervisors
- Applicant Masterclasses: 9 & 11 November via Zoom.
- Use your local director!
- Think about 'Plan B' and pandemic impact.
- Guidance documentation at www.northernbridge.ac.uk

? Questions?