



Arts & Humanities
Research Council



NORTH WEST CONSORTIUM DOCTORAL TRAINING PARTNERSHIP

Guide for Applicants for AHRC North West Consortium Doctoral Awards
(September 2017 entry)

INTRODUCTION

These Notes of Guidance are intended for those who wish to apply to the Universities of Liverpool, Lancaster, Salford, Keele, Manchester, MMU and the Royal Northern College of Music for an Arts and Humanities Research (AHRC) postgraduate award under the AHRC North West Consortium Doctoral Training Partnership (NWCDTP) scheme to support doctoral study in the Arts and Humanities from September 2017. It sets out the types of awards provided, eligibility and the procedures for application.

It is therefore crucial that you read these carefully before making your application.

1. THE FUNDING SCHEMES

The AHRC provides funding to enable students to study at Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in the UK at doctoral level and their postgraduate awards programme is administered as follows:

1+3 Scheme (One Year Master's + Three Years Doctoral Study)

This scheme will provide support for students undertaking an eligible Master's programme which focuses on advanced study and research training explicitly intended to provide a foundation for further research at doctoral level, who will then progress to a doctoral programme. Please refer to Application Guidance, sub-section 9.

+2 Scheme (Two years Doctoral Study – For current first year students only)

This scheme will provide support for up to two years of full time study, or four years of part-time study for students who are currently registered onto the first year of a programme leading to the award of a doctoral degree. Students in their second or third year will not be eligible for funding.

+3 Scheme (Three years Doctoral Study)

This scheme will provide support for up to three years of full-time study, or six years of part-time study, on a programme leading to the award of a doctoral degree.

2. ELIGIBILITY

Candidate must be aware that the deadline for admissions under the NWCDTP funding scheme is Friday 20 January 2017. Candidate MUST have applied to their programme of study by this date or their funding application will not be eligible.

Academic eligibility:

- Candidates must have qualifications of the standard of a good honours degree at first or upper second class level, from a UK academic institution. Applicants for +2 and +3 awards should normally possess or be studying for a Masters degree. In the majority of cases, candidates will have undertaken an undergraduate course and Masters course at a recognised UK higher education institution. However, some may have qualifications from outside the UK, or be able to offer a combination of qualifications and/or experience. In both cases, it will be necessary to ascertain whether these qualifications can be equated to an honours degree, and at what level.
- The NWCDTP bases its assessments of qualifications attained outside the UK on the British Council's NARIC guide.
- Candidates must be planning to study in a NWCDTP pathway (see appendix 1 for a list of pathways).

Residential eligibility:

- Candidates must have a relevant connection with the UK in order to qualify for a full award. This includes candidates who have been ordinarily resident in the UK throughout the 3-year period preceding the date of application and resident for this 3-year period for reasons other than education. Also candidates that have settled status in the UK within the meaning of the Immigration Act 1971.
- Candidates from EU countries other than the UK are now eligible for full awards maintenance and tuition fees if they have been resident in the UK for at least three years prior to the start of their programme.
- Candidates from EU countries who have not resided in the UK for three years prior to the start of their programme will be eligible for a fees-only award.

For further information on residential eligibility please refer to the AHRC webpage:

<http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/skills/training/>

3. THE FINANCIAL BASIS OF THE AWARD

A full postgraduate award for full-time study provides funds to meet:

- The payment of approved fees to the institution
 - A maintenance grant
- The level of the grant for the academic year 2016-17 is as follows (the level of the grant for 2016-17 and after is subject to confirmation from the AHRC):

Maintenance Grant	£14,296
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Students opting to study part time will receive a pro rata maintenance grant of the equivalent of a full time award.

Student will receive additional disability allowance where appropriate.

Fees Only Awards for eligible EU students provide the payment of tuition fees only. 'Fees-only' award holders are not eligible to receive a maintenance grant from AHRC funds.

4. THE APPLICATION PROCESS

Application Form and Transcripts

To apply for an award you must have applied for a place on a programme at one of the seven NWCDTP institutions by **Friday 20 January 2017**. Please note that your application for admission onto your chosen programme must be complete (no missing documents) when submitted by this deadline.

You must also submit a **NWCDTP Funding Application by 10 February 2017 (5pm)** in order to be considered.

Your application will be judged on the basis of your NWCDTP funding application form as well as your references, and your academic transcripts (submitted for your programme application on the 20 January). The references and transcripts will be matched to your funding application by the institution through which you are applying.

The references and transcripts submitted in support of your application for a place will suffice, but updated documents may be submitted if appropriate. This is advised if your new documents are able to provide information on your performance on a master's degree currently in progress, or (in the case of a current PhD student) on early progress on your PhD.

If you decide to submit updated documents these must be received by the relevant admissions office by the deadline of 10 February 2017.

Closing Date

You should apply to one institution for admission onto your chosen postgraduate programme using the online application form:

Lancaster: <https://www.postgraduate.lancs.ac.uk/Pages/default.aspx>

Liverpool: <http://www.liv.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/applying/>

Manchester: <http://www.manchester.ac.uk/postgraduate/howtoapply/>

MMU: <http://www2.mmu.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/apply/postgraduate-research-course/>

Keele: <http://www.keele.ac.uk/pgresearch/howtoapply/>

RNCM: <http://rncm.ac.uk/research/programme/apply/>

Salford: <http://www.salford.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/applying/applying-for-research>

Please note that candidates are allowed to apply to various institutions in the consortium for a place on a programme. However the candidates must choose only one institution through which they wish to apply for funding. A candidate for a 1+3 award may wish to take Masters and Doctoral programmes at different institutions within the NWCDTP, and this should be indicated in the application.

Please note that if an applicant submits more than one funding application in the Consortium, the NWCDTP reserves the right to withdraw the funding application.

Please note that in order to be eligible for NWCDTP funding you MUST have applied for a place on a programme at your institution by 20 January 2017.

You should complete the NWCDTP funding application form and send it to the relevant office (see appendix 2 for contact details) at the institution in which you intend to register by **5.00pm on Friday 10th February 2017.**

There is only one closing date for funding applications each year and there is no flexibility on this date.

5. ASSESSMENT OF APPLICATIONS

a. The Pathway Panels

Your application will initially be assessed by the Institutional Pathway Panel. The panel consists of senior academics from within the relevant pathway within the Institution you intend to register at. Each application is judged on its own merits based on the information provided in the AHRC Application Form and your transcripts / references. The Panel agrees a mark for each application and applications are then ranked.

The Institutional Pathway Panels will then forward their selected applications for consideration by the NWCDTP Pathway Panel. This consists of one nominated pathway lead for each NWCDTP institution represented in this pathway. This panel will decide which applications will go through the final Studentship Committee.

Finally, the applications which have passed the previous two stages are presented to the NWCDTP Studentship Committee by the overall Pathway Lead. This Committee will then decide on studentship allocation across the NWCDTP. This NWCDTP Studentship Committee will take place on the 31st March 2017.

b. Outcome of Application

Successful candidates will be notified by 13th April 2017. Candidates who are on the reserve list will also be notified, as will those who have been unsuccessful. If you are successful in being nominated for an award, you will be asked to confirm whether or not you wish to formally accept this.

c. Taking up an Award

Award holders are normally expected to begin their programme of study on, or around, **18th September 2017** and, providing we have received all necessary paperwork, holders of a full award will receive the first instalment of their maintenance grant in early October. In certain circumstances, such as illness, or where there is a need to give a period of notice to an employer, we will consider deferring the start date of a doctoral programme, normally by up to three months (with approval from the School/Faculty PG office). Any application for postponement must be made immediately through the Institution in which you intend to register. You should write to the Institution, in advance, including supporting letters from your potential supervisor.

If you are unable to take up your award in the year in which it was awarded, it will be rescinded and you will have to re-apply in the competition in the following year, should an award be available. You will need to inform us of your decision at the earliest possible stage, in writing, by letter or e-mail.

The continuation of doctoral awards is subject to the submission of a satisfactory annual report at the end of each year of the award and you are subject to the Institution and school/Faculty's standard monitoring and progression processes.

d. Change in circumstances

Studentships are awarded for a particular programme of study at the Universities of Keele, Lancaster, Liverpool, Manchester, MMU, Salford, or at the RNCM. Therefore all requests to make changes to the awards are only considered by the NWCDTP studentship committee in very exceptional circumstances and only if the reasons are fully and clearly explained.

e. Resubmitting Applications

If you are unsuccessful in one year's competition you may apply in the next year's competition providing you continue to meet the eligibility criteria for the scheme.

f. Appeals Process

The competition is fierce and, inevitably, many highly qualified and strongly supported applicants do not get an award. Each application receives careful scrutiny by the assessors, and their decision is reached in the context of competing applications. Individual Feedback on applications will not be available. The NWCDTP will be unable to notify unsuccessful candidates who did not make it as far as the NWCDTP Studentship Committee.

The Universities have complaints and appeals procedures, details of which can be found on our web sites at:

Lancaster: <http://www.lancs.ac.uk/sbs/all/complaintsandappeals.htm>

Liverpool: <http://www.liv.ac.uk/students/student-administration-centre/policies-procedures/appeals.htm>

Manchester: <http://www.manchester.ac.uk/study/postgraduate-research/admissions/policies-procedures/>

MMU: http://www.mmu.ac.uk/academic/casge/regulations/docs/appeals_complaints_policy.pdf

RNCM: <http://www.rncm.ac.uk/research/programme/apply/>

Keele: <https://www.keele.ac.uk/paa/governance/grievances/>

Salford: http://www.governance.salford.ac.uk/page/aqa_forms

6. APPLICATION TIMETABLE

Friday 20 January 2017	Admissions Deadline
Friday 10 February 2017	Deadline for NWCDTP Funding applications to be submitted to relevant institution
Around 13 April 2017	Successful and reserve candidates to be notified of the outcome
27 April 2017	Deadline for successful candidates to confirm acceptance of the award.
From 18 September 2017	Start of the programme under the NWCDTP

7. APPLICATION GUIDANCE:

Please follow the instructions below to complete your application form.

1. Studentships available:

Please tick the scheme you would like to apply for.

2. Institution you have received an offer at/ have applied to

Please select the institution you have been accepted to study at. For 1+3 applicants, this means for your Masters programme.

3. Name and address

We need to be able to contact you between April and September. Under 'Address' you should provide the address at which you can be contacted for the majority of this period, if this is different to the address you have given on the Institution application form. Should you be unavailable during this period, you may provide the name and address of someone who can correspond for you in your absence.

4. Project details

- Award type: Fees only or full award

Please see residency eligibility under section 2 (page 2) for more details

- Mode of attendance

Part time students are only eligible for the maintenance grant on a pro-rata basis. Further information on awards and stipends can be found under section 3 (page 3).

- Programme/Pathway

Please indicate the pathway through which you have applied (further details of pathways can be found in Appendix 1).

- Proposed Masters Programme: Please enter the name of the Masters programme you have been accepted on/ or you wish to study.

- Project title

The title of the PhD project should be entered.

5. PhD Proposal

- a. Please summarise your proposed PhD research in up to ten keywords. This will enable us to create a searchable database of successful proposals.
- b. Please give details of your PhD proposal in up to 1500 words. This limit includes any references and bibliography. Applications which do not follow this limit may be disqualified. Please provide a word count at the end of the proposal.

6. Qualifications

Please enter your relevant qualifications (Post-Secondary and relevant professional qualifications).

7. Relevant Experience

The assessors will use this information to establish any experience you have gained that might contribute to the intended research topic. Please supply the kind and extent of any experience relevant to your proposed research.

8. Supervision

Please state the names of your prospective supervisors according to your offer letter. If you have not yet received the offer letter, give the names of your intended supervisors. Please note that the NWCDTP provides the opportunity for you to have a supervisory team drawn from two or more of our constituent institutions, but your main supervisor should be from the institution at which you will be registered.

9. Research training previously undertaken

- Under (a) and (b), please include a brief description of relevant research training previously undertaken.
- Under (c), 1+3 applicants must give a clear indication of the specific set of skills to be developed by means of the Masters programme and how these will equip them to undertake the PhD.

The NWCDTP is able to fund 1+3 projects where the Masters training will provide concentrated training in a distinct set skills that are necessary for the PhD and are of strategic importance to the future of arts and humanities research. We have identified the following kinds of training: (a) learning a foreign language; (b) training in digital humanities; (c) collaborative training delivered in conjunction with a non-HEI partner; (d) training in practice-based research; (e) advanced methodological training. This is not an exhaustive list.

10. Research training needs

Please give details of any identified training needs for your doctoral programme and state whether or not this has been discussed with your supervisors. Please also state whether your research project will require you to undertake research abroad or require additional resources (e.g. research/study abroad, language training, use of specialist equipment/facilities etc). Please note: the NWCDTP has resources for these purposes and an expensive project will not be disadvantaged. If you have identified training needs that require additional time on top of the normal three years, indicate this now and you will be eligible to apply for a studentship extension.

11. Collaboration with External Partners

- a. Please indicate whether you envisage this as a collaborative PhD. A collaborative PhD is a project which is shaped in conjunction with a non-HEI partner organisation (for example, a business, a museum, a charity, a government department) which itself supplies a co-supervisor. If we are to consider this as a collaborative PhD you must have made contact with the partner organisation **before** submitting your application, and the organisation must provide a letter indicating its willingness in principle to collaborate with you. But the formal agreement can wait until after the funding decision has been made. Please indicate the nature of your contact with the organisation, which staff member might act as collaborating supervisor, what you will contribute to the organisation and what it will contribute to your project.

We have prepared a Q&A document about collaborative PhDs for the benefit of partner organisations. We recommend that you give a copy of this to your proposed partner organisation (This document can be found under 'How to Apply' on our website)

NB some partner organisations have contacted us to indicate the broad areas in which they would welcome collaborative PhDs. Please see our website at: www.nwcdtp.ac.uk/howtoapply

- b. For those whose projects are not collaborative in this sense. Please indicate whether you think there is potential to work with an external partner, e.g. a cultural organisation, an industrial partner or a government body, during your PhD. Indicate the form this might take: e.g. will the partner be involved throughout, or might the collaboration take the form of a placement with the partner organisation? The external partner does not have to be part of the NWCDTP.

NB the NWCDTP wishes to encourage some projects of this kind but does not wish all projects to conform to this model.

12. Additional applications

Please indicate whether you have already applied for other funding for this forthcoming year.

13. References and transcripts

Your application will be judged on the basis of your application form, your references, and your academic transcripts. The references and transcripts will be attached to your application by the institution through which you are applying. These must be received by the relevant admissions office by the deadline of 10th February 2017. The references and transcripts submitted in support of your application for a place will suffice for this purpose, but updated documents may be submitted if appropriate. This is advised if they are able to provide information on the applicant's performance on a master's degree currently in progress, or (in the case of a current PhD student) on early progress on the PhD.

14. How did you hear about us:

The DTP would be interested to hear how you have heard about the DTP and its studentships, whether it is via our website, external funding website, your institution etc....

15. Acknowledgement

Please sign and date the application form.

APPENDIX 1 –LIST OF PATHWAYS

- **Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, Hebrew and Persian**
- **Archaeology**
- **Arts History**
- **Classics**
- **Creative Writing**
- **Cultural Studies**
- **Dance, Drama and Performing Arts**
- **English**
- **History**
- **Law**
- **Linguistics**
- **Media and Communication**
- **Modern Languages**
- **Museum Studies**
- **Music**
- **Philosophy**
- **Religions and Theology**
- **Translation Studies**
- **Visual Arts: Arts and Design**

APPENDIX 2

List of contact for each institution (General queries / Submission of funding applications)



**Keele
University**

Keele University:

all funding applications to be sent to:

Helen Farrell
Postgraduate Research Administrator
humanities.phd@keele.ac.uk



Lancaster University:

all funding applications to be sent to:

Sarah Purcell
fass-pg@lancaster.ac.uk



**Manchester
Metropolitan
University**

Manchester Metropolitan University:

all funding applications to be sent to:

Katherine Walthall
Research Officer
adh1sspgadmissions@mmu.ac.uk

RNCM

**ROYAL NORTHERN
COLLEGE of MUSIC**

Royal Northern College of Music:

all funding applications to be sent to:

Rachel Ware
Research Administrator
research@rncm.ac.uk



University of Liverpool:

all funding applications to be sent to:

Hayley Meloy
Faculty Research and KE Administrator
hsspgr@liv.ac.uk



The University of Manchester

University of Manchester:

Funding applications for:

School of Arts, Languages and Cultures:

Joanne Marsh
SALC PGR Administrator
phdfunding-salc@manchester.ac.uk

School of Law:

Helen Davenport
Law PGR Administrator
Helen.Davenport@manchester.ac.uk

School of Social Sciences:

Vicky Barnes
SoSS Admissions Manager
Vicky.barnes@manchester.ac.uk



University of Salford:

all funding applications should be sent to:

College of Arts and Social Sciences
PGR Office
PGR-SupportSAM@salford.ac.uk