



Arts & Humanities  
Research Council

South, West  
& Wales  
Doctoral  
Training  
Partnership

**South, West and Wales Doctoral  
Training Partnership**

**Eligibility and Application Guidelines**

**2017/18**



## Context

The AHRC-funded South, West & Wales Doctoral Training Partnership (SWW DTP) is a collaboration between eight leading research universities and multiple arts, heritage, media, and government sector partners, working together to develop a new generation of arts and humanities researchers.

The SWW DTP is designed to lead this new generation of researchers into productive careers whether in academia or professional practice. We provide bespoke support and training tailored to your project and your career aspirations, enriched by the world-class expertise and state-of-the-art resources offered through the partnership.

SWW DTP students normally have supervisors at two different consortium institutions. Our students are provided with unparalleled access across institutional boundaries to the most relevant and cutting-edge expertise through these collaborative supervisory teams, ensuring an exceptional breadth and depth of coverage for your project.

SWW DTP students also benefit from an extensive catalogue of enhanced training. The DTP's unique Professional Arts and Humanities Researcher programme was specifically designed to develop the essential skills researchers in the arts and humanities require to be successful. In addition, each year the DTP develops a programme of collaborative training, bespoke to the needs of each cohort. This training not only allows students to develop their knowledge of niche research skills and methodologies, it is an opportunity for students to engage in interdisciplinary debate with their peers, and academics from across the consortium and external speakers who are experts in the field.

The SWW Consortium will award up to 60 PhD Studentships in the Arts and Humanities for start in September 2018.

## Studentships

1. SWW DTP studentships entitle both UK and EU doctoral students to a tuition fee award of £4,195 per annum at 2017/18 rates (or part-time equivalent). UK students will receive a maintenance award of £14,553 per annum at 2017/18 rates (or part-time equivalent), for a minimum period of 3 academic years (or part-time equivalent). Students from the EU are only eligible for a fees-only award from the AHRC, however, the SWW DTP consortium may provide EU students awarded a studentship for September 2018 entry with a maintenance stipend to the level of that offered by the AHRC to UK students. Applicants from EU countries will be notified immediately of any change of status as a result of UK government policy.

2. Part-time students should contact their proposed home institution for more information about the part-time equivalent of the full-time studentship.



3. The period of the studentship will be determined by the individual circumstances of the applicant and additional support up to a total of 6 months (or part-time equivalent) may be provided for a period of research training prior to commencement of the PhD or to facilitate training or a placement undertaken during the period of PhD registration. Applicants should indicate their plans in their research project proposal and be prepared to discuss them at interview. The AHRC requires all full-time students to submit their project within four years of their initial registration (or part-time equivalent), regardless of whether an extension to the studentship period is granted.

4. In addition to their award, studentship holders can benefit from additional funding opportunities to support their training, professional development and research costs.

### **Eligibility**

5. The DTP welcomes and encourages single-subject and interdisciplinary applications that are identifiably located within the subjects listed below.

- Archaeology
- Celtic Studies
- Classics and Ancient History
- Creative Writing
- Drama, Film and TV
- English
- History and History of Art
- Law
- Modern Languages
- Music
- Philosophy
- Theology and Religious Studies

Interdisciplinary applications will receive cross-panel assessment, where applicable, providing the application can be assessed by specialists in the areas listed below:

- Archaeology
- Art History
- Celtic Studies
- Classics
- Creative Writing
- Cultural and Museum Studies
- Drama and Theatre Studies
- English Language and Literature
- Film History, Theory and Criticism
- French Studies



- German Studies (including Dutch and Yiddish)
- Hispanic, Portuguese and Latin American Studies
- History
- Interpreting and Translation
- Italian Studies
- Law and Legal Studies
- Media: Television History, Theory and Criticism
- Middle Eastern and African Studies
- Music
- New Media/Web-Based Studies
- Philosophy
- Russian, Slavonic and Eastern European Studies
- Theology, Divinity and Religion

6. SWW DTP studentships are open to full-time and part-time applicants who are deemed UK / EU. Students in full-time employment during their PhD are not eligible for a stipend of any kind from the Research Councils. A student in part-time employment during their PhD may be eligible for a part-time award. Part-time effort should not be less than 50% of full-time FTE.

7. We are looking for students from the UK or EU with evidence of exceptional promise for PhD study. You will have a compelling project that will benefit from the expertise we can offer in and across a range of subjects and from our rich archival resources and network of professional partners.

You should have attained at least a first degree at 2:2 or higher (or international equivalent), and have achieved or be working towards a postgraduate qualification.

We also encourage applications from those with non-traditional qualifications/routes who:

- Achieved at least a first degree at 2.2 or higher (or international equivalent) and are not presently working towards a postgraduate qualification, but who can demonstrate equivalent experience and aptitude for research in their field.
- Have a first degree at lower than 2.2 (or international equivalent) but can demonstrate high achievement at postgraduate level.
- Do not have a first degree but can demonstrate substantial equivalent and relevant experience that has prepared them to undertake their proposed course of study. In such cases, those applying for a doctoral studentship should have, or be studying for, a Master's degree or similar postgraduate qualification.



8. Students in full-time employment during their PhD are not eligible for a stipend of any kind from the Research Councils. If a student is employed full-time, they are considered to have the necessary financial support in place to undertake their studies.

9. Please note that students are eligible for a full studentship from the AHRC if they have:

- Settled status in the UK, meaning they have no restrictions on how long they can stay and;
- Been 'ordinarily resident' in the UK for 3 years prior to the start of the studentship. This means they must have been normally residing in the UK (apart from temporary or occasional absences) and;
- Not been residing in the UK wholly or mainly for the purpose of full-time education. (This does not apply to UK or EU nationals).

A candidate applying as an EU student must be ordinarily resident in a member state of the EU; in the same way as UK students must be ordinarily resident in the UK. Students from the EU are only eligible for a fees-only award from the AHRC, however, the SWW DTP consortium may provide EU students awarded a studentship for September 2018 entry with a maintenance stipend to the level of that offered by the AHRC to UK students.

10. Please note that a student who has already commenced doctoral study may apply for funding for the remainder of their study, providing that, at the start of the AHRC award, they will have at least 50% of their period of study remaining (excluding the fourth 'writing up' year (or part-time equivalent)).

11. Please note, applicants from EU countries will be notified immediately of any change of status as a result of UK government policy.

### **The SWW DTP Application**

The studentship application form is designed to provide all the information needed for a rigorous review process. The guidance that follows will help you prepare your application.

**Please note that by making an application to the SWW DTP you are applying for a studentship only. You will still need to make a separate application to your choice of home institution for your place. You do not need to wait for the outcome of your SWW DTP application before applying to your home institution, but can complete the application processes concurrently. If awarded a studentship, you must ensure that you have a confirmed place at your choice of home institution by the start of the award.**

12. Applications for an SWW DTP studentship must be submitted through our online application system.



13. Applications may be submitted at any time until 11.59pm on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January.

**14. Please note that your two nominated referees must upload their references before you can submit. Please therefore ensure that their references are completed before the application deadline so that you can submit on time. We advise that you communicate with your referees about this process to ensure they are aware of the deadline requirement.**

15. Once an application form is submitted, **you will not be able to edit the contents.** ‘Submission’ means you are willing for the SWW DTP to log the application as complete. Likewise, please make sure all the documents required are uploaded to your application at the point of submission. You will be unable to edit your application after submission.

16. Applications will not begin to be assessed until after the submission deadline. Assessment is undertaken by SWW DTP Subject Panels. Please note that if you progress to the final stage of assessment you will be required to attend an interview.

17. Application Timeline:

Application System Opens	Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> November
Application Deadline	Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> January, 11.59pm
Notification of invite to interview	Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> February
Interview week	Week commencing Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> March
Notification of awards	Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> March
Deadline for awardee acceptance	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> April

18. Content of application form:

- Personal information
- Current/previous education
- Current/previous employment
- Proposed home institution and supervisor
- Proposed co-supervising institution and supervisor
- Subject area(s)
- Research project proposal (maximum 1000 words)
- Any placements you would like to undertake with our partners (maximum 300 words)
- Personal statement (maximum 300 words)
- Diversity information
- 2 x references
- Certificates of education
- Any additional supporting documents - please note that if your PhD proposal is based around creative practice you will be required to upload a work sample or



creative portfolio. Please see below guidelines for type and length of required submission:

- Creative Writing: Prose - 2000 words; Poetry - 5 poems; Digital Writing – brief introduction with url for work that resides online or downloadable files
- Film – practice-based only: 20 minute showreel
- Drama/Performance/Live Art/ Dance: 10 minute showreel
- Music – Composition: sample score or recording of 15 minutes duration

19. Please make sure you have the agreement of your proposed supervisors before including their names in your application.

## **Writing a Research Proposal and Personal Statement for the SWW DTP**

### **Purpose of the Research Proposal**

20. The purpose of the research project proposal is to show why and how you will undertake an academic piece of research which will be original, based on critical assessment, add to the existing body of knowledge and is do-able in the required timeframe. The research proposal should describe the research problem you plan to address (question/s or hypothesis), state why it is important and outline the research methods you plan to use and why they are appropriate and feasible. The research hypothesis or question/s must be sufficiently narrow and specific so as to be answerable within the period of time available for completing your thesis.

### **Content of the Research Proposal**

21. There is no one right way to write a research proposal, however your proposal should aim to cover:

- Working project title
- The overall theme of your topic and why it is of interest to you, and of interest more widely.
- The hypothesis that you will test, or the research question or questions you plan to answer
- Why you think the research is worth doing
- A brief, selective and critical review (assessment of strengths and weaknesses) of the relevant literature to show your understanding of the main debates and issues in your research area and how your proposed research will add to, or reconceptualise, this.
- How you will do the research - the methodology you propose to use, and its appropriateness for answering your research question/s or testing your hypothesis
- When you have written your first full draft read back over it and critically assess whether or not you have written a plausible proposal



### Format

22. While content is of primary importance, the format of your research proposal also needs attention

- The research project proposal must be **no longer than 1000 words**. Please do not include a bibliography here – you can upload it via your main task list.
- Avoid jargon, use clear simple English, it should be understandable by non-experts
- Ensure you use correct grammar and spelling

### Personal Statement

23. The personal statement for the SWW DTP application, as opposed to a standard PhD application, needs to focus on how you will benefit from what the SWW DTP provides and what makes you stand out in an extremely competitive field. This extends beyond funding and includes making use of cross-supervisory relationships, partner engagement, and the training and activities associated with the SWW DTP. It is not expected that you have fully formed plans at this stage, simply that you are aware of, and open to, the possible synergies these resources may create with your research as it matures through your PhD.

### Format

24. Your personal statement must be **no longer than 300 words**.

### Assessment Criteria

25. Your application will be assessed holistically using the following criteria:

- Academic performance to date
- Preparedness or promise for doctoral research
- Strength of the research project proposal
- Engagement with the aims, ethos and opportunities of the SWW DTP