



Arts & Humanities  
Research Council

UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM

## Arts and Humanities Research Council Postgraduate Scholarships Competition 2013-2014

### Guidance for Applicants

This guide is designed to provide help and guidance for candidates wishing to be considered for AHRC funding at the University of Birmingham for study starting in October 2013. The deadline for applications to be submitted for consideration in the 2013-14 competition is **Monday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2013 at 4pm**.

#### Application Instructions

Your application for AHRC funding is embedded into the University of Birmingham's online application for a place to study at <http://pga.bham.ac.uk>. You should complete this form in full.

In the **Additional Information** section, please select 'Studentship (UK/EU Students Only)' under 'Funding'. Then select 'AHRC' in the drop down menu, and answer 'no' to 'Has this funding already been obtained?'

A text box will appear, directing you to <http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/ahrc>. You should download and complete the **AHRC Additional Information Form** (further guidance on the completion of this form is provided below) and attach this to your application to study as a supporting document.

**IMPORTANT:** The references that are submitted to support your application to study will be used when considering you for an AHRC studentship. It is strongly recommended that you inform your referees that you are applying for AHRC funding and that your reference will be used to support this.

**PLEASE NOTE:** In order to be eligible for consideration for AHRC funding, your completed application, including references, must be submitted **before 4pm on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2013**. It is **your responsibility** to inform your referees of this deadline. You will be able to check whether your references have been uploaded using the online application tracking system.

#### AHRC Additional Information Form – Guidance Notes

Each section of the form will be outlined in more detail in this guide, it is therefore important that you read the whole guide BEFORE you complete the form. However, please also note the following important points-

- 1- The deadline for the submission of the application form and references is **4pm Monday 28th January 2013**. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

- 2- Applications should be completed electronically and typed. Applications completed by hand will not be accepted.
- 3- Scans of full copies of transcripts of previous qualifications should accompany your application, and must be submitted with your online application before **4pm on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2013**. Transcripts should have a full breakdown of all marks achieved throughout your previous and current study, and can be unofficial transcripts for current study or unconfirmed marks.
- 4- It is the applicant's responsibility to inform referees of the deadline for references for be submitted, which is **4pm on Monday 28th January 2013**. Applicants are strongly advised to inform referees that their reference will be used to consider them for AHRC funding.

**Please read all sections of this guide and the application form carefully before completing your application form.**

### **Section 1: Personal Details**

Please ensure that your full name is entered.

### **Section 2: Funding**

**Type of AHRC Competition-** under the Block Grant Partnership, the AHRC have specified the number, and type of awards available from the University of Birmingham for each academic year. The 2013-2014 spread of available awards, alongside an explanation of the type of awards can be found below.

**The Professional Preparation Master's Scheme** provides support for students intending to proceed to a career in professional practice, who are undertaking a Master's degree which will prepare the student specifically for professional practice.

**The Research Preparation Master's Scheme** provides support for students intending to proceed to doctoral study, who are undertaking a Master's course that will prepare them for doctoral study. We expect these students to gain a Master's qualification at the end of their AHRC award.

**The Doctoral Awards Scheme** provides support for students undertaking doctoral study. The University of Birmingham usually expects students who are awarded doctoral scholarships to have already completed a Master's degree as preparation for doctoral study.

More information on these levels of awards can be found online at;  
<http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/FundingOpportunities/Pages/summaryinformationforprospectivepostgraduatestudents.aspx>

13 Doctoral awards will be available in the following areas:

<b>Discipline Area</b>
Classics and Ancient History
English Language and Literature
German Language and Culture

History
History of Art, Architecture and Design
Italian Language and Culture
Music
Philosophy
Religious Studies

A maximum of 5 Masters awards will be available across the following areas:

Discipline Area
Archaeology (RPM/PPM)
Dance, Drama and Performing Arts (PPM)
English Language and Literature (RPM)
Film, Digital and Media Production (PPM)
History of Art, Architecture and Design (RPM)
Music (RPM)
Philosophy (RPM)
Religious Studies (RPM)

### **Section 3: Residency Status**

Please enter details of your residency status. **Please note that AHRC awards are only available to Home and EU residents.**

The following are eligible for AHRC funding:

- Home students (full award)
- EU students (fees only)
- EU students who have lived in the UK for at least three years directly preceding the start of the award (full award)
- Overseas students who have permanent leave to remain and have also lived in the UK for more than three years for purposes other than study (full award)

If you have any queries regarding your eligibility, please contact Rachel Patti (r.c.patti@bham.ac.uk)

### **Section 4: Previous Funding Information**

Please provide information relating to any previous applications you may have made to the AHRC, or if you have received any financial support for your postgraduate studies from a non-AHRC source. Please note that this is not relevant if you were self-funded, or supported by family members for your study.

### **Section 5: Your Choice Of Institution**

**In no more than 100 words** please indicate in this section why you feel the University of Birmingham is the best place for your particular study. You could, for example, note that a course is specific to the University of Birmingham, that study at the University of Birmingham allows ready access to specific research resources, to expert members of staff and research communities, and to particular aspects of postgraduate provision.

**Please do not exceed the word limit of 100 words. Exceeding this word limit will lead to your application being withdrawn.**

## **Section 6: Title of Study and Case for Support**

Please provide the title of the course programme you are applying for funding for e.g. MA History of Art, MRes Playwriting Studies, PhD American and Canadian Studies.

If you are applying for a PhD or an MRes please also include the title of your thesis/research area in this section.

### **Case for Support**

**Please do not exceed the word limit of 500 words. Exceeding this word limit will lead to your application being withdrawn.**

In completing your Case for Support of your application form, you should consider the following points:

#### **Master's applicants (Research Preparation Masters)**

- How will the course prepare you for doctoral study or provide a foundation for a career in research in the higher education sector?
- Explain the course or programme of study you will be undertaking, including your dissertation
- If you are applying for more than one year's full-time or two years' part-time funding, please include justification for the additional period of support
- Preparation and previous experience

#### **Master's applicants (Professional Preparation Masters)**

- How will taking this course contribute to your long-term career aims?
- Explain the course you will be undertaking and why it is necessary for practice in your chosen field
- Previous experience

#### **Doctoral Award applicants**

- Your research project (what questions will you answer, which methods and sources will you use, why is your project important in scholarly terms?)
- Preparation and previous experience (why are you the best person to complete this project?)
- If you have already begun doctoral study, please remember to refer to the research you have undertaken to date.

### **Checklist**

Please work through the points above carefully, ensuring that all sections are completed fully, and that additional documents such as transcripts are also accounted for.