



IWM Collaborative Doctoral Partnership: General guidance 2021

All applications should be compliant with the partner HEIs regulations for Research Degrees and with both the HEI and IWM's ethics regulations

AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Schemes

AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Partnership awards (CDPs) offer the possibility for students to combine academic work leading to a doctorate with the acquisition of practical skills and work experience outside of a university context. The studentships under the Collaborative Doctoral Partnership scheme are on themes chosen by the Independent Research Organisation (IRO) and are jointly supervised by specialists from the IRO and a partner university. As well as being of great benefit to the students involved, collaborative partnerships between Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and IROs, like IWM, are extremely valuable for both collaborating partners, providing access to resources, knowledge and expertise.

Subject to AHRC eligibility criteria, the scholarship covers tuition fees and a grant (stipend) towards living expenses for 45 months (3 years and 9 months) full time or part-time equivalent. The studentship has the possibility of being extended for an additional 3 months to provide professional development opportunities, or up to 3 months of funding may be used to pay for the costs the student might incur in taking up professional development opportunities. 3 to 6 months of the funded period (or part time equivalent) is intended to support the student's career development, providing time for work experience, training or delivering impact activities that are not directly part of their research. These opportunities can take the form of specific 'blocks' of activity (e.g. placements, language courses) or be spread across a longer period of time (e.g. as regular contributions to exhibition or cataloguing projects). Any such opportunities should ideally take place within years 1-3 of the project, with the final year focused on completion of the research and submission of the PhD thesis, the deadline for which is 4 years. IWM will provide up to £1,000 per annum paid directly to the student, to support research and travel costs.

Where development or training opportunities incur direct costs, these will need to be deducted from the amount available for the stipend – thereby reducing the period of the project for which the student receives the stipend.

For example:

- If a student undertakes a placement in a different location, this will incur additional travel and accommodation expenses – supposing these expenses amount to the equivalent of 3 months of stipend, then the maximum period of the stipend would need to be reduced from 4 years to 3 years and 9 months

- If a student needs to take a training course, this will incur a course fee – supposing the course fee is the equivalent of 2 months of stipend, then the maximum period of the stipend would need to be reduced from 4 years to 3 years and 10 months

Regardless of any training or development opportunities undertaken by the student, the submission deadline for the PhD thesis will be 4 years (or PT equivalent).

Studentships offered by IWM

IWM is currently inviting applications to co-supervise two CDP studentships to begin in October 2022. Please see the IWM website for details of the themes and areas we would like to invite HEI partners to co-supervise on.

Through CDPs, IWM benefits from work on parts of the collections that have not previously been the subject of close study, resulting in improved access to those collections for the full range of IWM users. The topics of the CDPs have been chosen by IWM as being of strategic importance to our collections and research, but there is potential for further development of the topic with the HEI partner and, of course, with the student.

IWM Collections and Research

IWM's collections cover all aspects of twentieth and twenty-first century conflict involving Britain, the Commonwealth and other former Empire countries. Created to record the toil and sacrifice of every individual affected by war, the collections include a wide range of material, from film, photographs and oral history to works of art, large objects, and personal letters and diaries.

IWM is a national repository and is accredited under the Museums Libraries and Archives Accreditation scheme. In 2011 IWM attained full Independent Research Organisation status with eligibility to apply to the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) and the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC).

Role of HEI supervisor

In co-supervising a studentship with IWM, the HEI supervisor will need to work in partnership with IWM's nominated supervisor. When applying to co-supervise a CDP, it is important to consider how the co-supervising relationship will work, and to be aware that this will require a regular time commitment for a period of four years.

Role of CDP students within IWM

CDP students form an integral part of IWM's Collections Access and Research department. Students are provided with access to IWM's collections and are encouraged to build useful working relationships with departments and individual specialists across IWM. CDP students are expected to take a proactive role within the department, and activities undertaken by our current cohort of students include managing the IWM Research Blog, and organising study exchanges and academic conferences.

CDP students benefit from a training programme, which has been jointly developed for CDPs by the IROs. In the past this programme has included modules on Researching Objects and Material Culture; Researching Archives and Documents; Copyright, Intellectual Property and Ethics in Cultural and Heritage Sectors;

Digital Humanities; and Challenging Histories. Alongside this, CDP students are encouraged to attend relevant training courses available to IWM staff, such as collections management software training and building the academic CV.

HEI Application procedure

All HEI representatives who are interested in co-supervising one of IWM's CDP studentships need to complete an application form, which is available to download from the [IWM website](#).

Assessment of HEI applications

Applications from prospective HEI partners will be judged by a panel including at least one member of an external IRO or HEI, appointed by the IWM Institute Board and chaired by the Head of Research and Academic Partnerships. Proposals will be assessed on how well-equipped the HEI representative is to co-supervise the studentship and how their research interests align with those of IWM; the proposed development of the topic; the opportunities the university can offer the student; and how well the partner's proposal supports IWM and the prospective student.

Advertising to potential candidates

Once academic partners have been confirmed for IWM's two CDP studentships, we will advertise the studentships jointly with our partner HEI. An open competition for applicants will be run, and the HEI and IWM will interview candidates. We anticipate that interviews will take place in late spring 2022, with a view to confirming award recipients in summer 2022.

In usual circumstances and in order to maintain equal opportunities for all prospective applicants, IWM would prefer to recruit students for CDP studentships through an open competition. This approach also enables us to ensure the student who is selected is of a suitable academic calibre. However, should you wish to name a student whom you would like to benefit from the studentship, we would request that you write a short letter explaining the reasons behind this, which should be returned along with the application form.

All students have the option of undertaking AHRC CDPs part-time.

Eligibility of potential candidates

International students were eligible for all UKRI-funded postgraduate studentships from the start of the 2021/22 academic year. All UKRI-funded PhD students are eligible for the full award - both the stipend to support living costs, and fees at research organisations UK rate. UKRI funding will not cover international fees set by universities, but they will be given the flexibility to find international tuition fees from other sources. For more details please visit the [UKRI website](#).

AHRC procedures

Once the successful proposals have been selected, academic co-supervisors will be informed and IWM will work with them to complete a formal Je-S application.

It may be necessary to advertise the studentships before receiving formal written confirmation of the studentships from AHRC, and we request that HEIs understand this when applying.

The HEI will receive funds for the studentship directly from AHRC, and will be expected to manage the payment of these to the student. IWM will provide up to £1,000 per annum paid directly to the student, to support research and travel costs, these payments remain at the sole discretion of IWM.

Collaborative nature of the CDP studentships

The CDP studentship needs to be truly collaborative and work for the benefit of the student and the project. IWM expects HEI partners to make reasonable adjustments and show flexibility to the student with regard to usual institutional arrangements and restrictions regarding PhD studentships, which may impinge on the collaborative nature of the studentship e.g. residency requirements.

Once students have been recruited, IWM will send the HEI co-supervisor/s a drafted copy of the Studentship Agreement, which was developed in consultation with the other IROs and is used consistently for all CDP studentships hosted at IWM.

About AHRC

The Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) funds world-class, independent researchers in a wide range of subjects: history, archaeology, digital content, philosophy, languages, design, heritage, area studies, the creative and performing arts, and much more. AHRC is part of UK Research and Innovation, a new body that works in partnership with universities, research organisations, businesses, charities, and government to create the best possible environment for research and innovation to flourish. Operating across the whole of the UK with a combined budget of more than £6 billion, UK Research and Innovation brings together the seven Research Councils, Innovate UK and a new organisation, Research England.