

NORTHERN BRIDGE
CONSORTIUM DOCTORAL
TRAINING
PARTNERSHIP



Arts and
Humanities
Research Council

Northern Bridge Consortium Staff-Led CDA Overview

Dr David Stewart, Northumbria University
Academic Director of NBC

Plan for today

- An overview of NBC's Staff-Led CDA competition
- Insights into producing a successful application with Dr Helen Williams (Northumbria University)
- Q&A

Glossary

NBCDTP= [Northern Bridge Consortium Doctoral Training Partnership](#).

A Consortium of 7 Universities in North East England and Northern Ireland (Durham, Newcastle, Northumbria, Queen's University Belfast, Sunderland, Teesside, Sunderland, Ulster)

AHRC = Arts and Humanities Research Council. Funder of NBC

UKRI = United Kingdom Research and Innovation; the umbrella organisation that funds AHRC, receiving funds from the UK Government

HEI = Higher Education Institution

CDA = Collaborative Doctoral Award

NBCDTP Contact information

Directors

- Ulster University: Karen Fleming (k.fleming@ulster.ac.uk)
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- Northumbria University: David Stewart (david.stewart@northumbria.ac.uk)
- Newcastle University (and Consortium Director): Ian O'Flynn (NorthernBridgeDirector@newcastle.ac.uk)
- Durham University: Jonathan Miles-Watson (jonathan.miles-watson@durham.ac.uk)

Administrative Contacts

<http://www.northernbridge.ac.uk/about/contact/>

NBCDTP's Vision for CDAs

- Our application to the AHRC commits us to 'maximum support for CDAs'
- Unusually high percentage of our awards are CDAs (up to 20% across the lifetime of the DTP, ca. 13 p/a)
- Central to our broader vision of partnership working, creating cross-sector mobility for our students, and contributing to our regions and the wider world

Collaborative Doctoral Awards (CDAs)

What is a CDA?

CDAs are PhDs that integrate an external (non-HEI) partner into the project methods and outcomes. 20% of NBCDTP's PhDs are CDAs (ca. 13 each year)

- Supervision is shared between academics and partners
- The project must make the relationship with the partner integral to the research goals
- There must be clear benefits to the partner *and* clear benefits to the student
 - Intrinsic Benefits
 - Process Benefits
 - Public Engagement Benefits
- The PhD must make an original contribution to an AHRC academic discipline, and must fit the AHRC definition of excellent research <https://www.ukri.org/councils/ahrc/>
- No restriction on who can be a partner, except that they must be non-HEI.
- The AHRC expectation is that partners are UK-based, though a case can be made for international partners
- No requirement that the partner contributes financially to the CDA

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Northumberland
National Park

- Northumberland Wildlife Trust
- Changing Lives
- BALTIC
- PROTO Emerging Technologies Centre
- YMCA
- Armagh Observatory and Planetarium
- Royal Air Force Museum
- Sabotage Reviews



In practice

- **Intrinsic Benefits:** how will the research field produce insights and knowledge that will help the partner organisation achieve its objectives?
- **Process Benefits:** how will the partner organisation benefit from the process of the nominee's undertaking of the research project, informally or through the completion of specific tasks (e.g. cataloguing of collections, knowledge exchange with staff)?
- **Public Engagement Benefits:** what kind of research outcomes will generate 'content' for the partner organisation to use in their public engagement work (e.g. material for an exhibition)?

(Re)Creating History: Exploring embodied performances through immersive technologies

- CDA with PROTO: The Emerging Technology Centre
- Interdisciplinary between Design and Drama; Creative Practice-led research
- PROTO provides:
 - Expertise in using technology
 - High quality and high cost technology
 - Supervision time
- PROTO gains:
 - better understanding of the cultural/heritage use of their technology [process/intrinsic]
 - opens up a new market sector [intrinsic]
 - outputs include demonstrators and scholarly publications that will showcase technology [Public Engagement]



Systemic Inclusion: Representation and Diversity in UK Literary Festivals

- CDA with Sabotage Reviews
- Creative Writing PhD
- Sabotage Reviews provides
 - Access to networks
 - Expertise in the industry
 - Supervision time and advice
 - Access to archives
 - Student role in annual awards event
- Sabotage Reviews gains
 - Better understanding of key policy area [process/intrinsic]
 - Cataloguing and knowledge about archival holdings [process]
 - Publicity and link to wider industry networks and conversations through outputs (student input into annual Saboteur Awards, creative practice output) [public engagement]
 - Deeper engagement with audiences and key stakeholders (publishers, writers)



Why apply for a CDA?

For the academic supervisor:

- Work with student and partner on innovative and exciting research
- A chance to extend and enhance relationships with partner organisations
- High (or *higher*) chance of success (13 of 50 applications funded in 2021)

For the partner organisation:

- A chance to get a PhD researcher working closely with the organisation
- Develop a project of direct benefit to the organisation
- Help achieve organisational goals
- Define outcomes that will enhance the organisation's profile nationally and internationally
- No requirement to contribute financially

How to apply for a CDA: timeline

- July 2022: NBC launches the CDA competition on the website
- 11 October 2022: Applications submitted to NBC
- October-November: applications assessed and moderated
- 9 November 2022: Results announced
- 10 November 2022 – 13 March 2023:
 - successful applications recruit a student to the project
 - projects advertised on NBC website; local institutional advertising;
 - interviews held by supervision teams
- October 2023: Studentship begins

What next?

1. Discussions about the project with the partner organisation
2. Firm up the supervision team members
3. Talk to your local institutional NBC Director if you need more advice
4. The NBC website will be updated on 1 July with Guidance Documents and the Nomination Form
5. Last year's documents are on the website (see Staff-Led CDA awards) to give you some guidance

Now – some discussion with Dr Helen Williams, supervisor of CDAs with National Trust (Seaton Delaval Hall) and Laurence Sterne Trust (Shandy Hall)