

PhD Studentships in the Department of Humanities

Department of Humanities

The Department of Humanities is one of four large Departments in the School of Arts and Social Sciences. The Department currently consists of 47 staff and roughly 1,000 students and has grown rapidly in the last few years. Our undergraduate programmes in the fields of English Literature, Linguistics, Creative Writing and History have all seen year-on-year increases in applications, and we are currently expanding our postgraduate taught provision with new MA and MRes degrees coming on stream. In this context, we are now seeking to roughly double the size of our research student population from its existing base in the mid-twenties.

Both History and English received strong endorsement for the quality of their research through the Research Assessment Exercise (2008), with a significant amount of research across both subjects being labelled as 'internationally excellent' and a smaller element as 'world-leading'. Meanwhile the University as a whole more than doubled its research income as a result of its performance in the RAE. We have strong research groups in International and Transnational History (including Irish, European and American History), Labour History, Pre-Modern European Urban Cultures, Creative Writing, Linguistics, Early Modern Literature, Eighteenth-Century Studies, and Twentieth and Twenty-First Century Writing.

Members of the Department have been successful in winning money from major research funders (such as the AHRC), and the Department up until recently housed the prestigious Leverhulme-funded 'Before Depression' project (2006-09).

A number of important academic journals are currently edited within the Department, including *Labour History Review* and *Cognitive Linguistics*. We also have excellent regional, national and international links with organizations like New Writing North and the Newcastle Lit & Phil. History is involved in research collaborations with Newcastle and Durham universities, and has strong associations with research partners in the UK and abroad through several visiting professors who contribute in a variety of ways to our culture.

Investment in Research

The Department is investing heavily in research. 13 new staff members in English (including Literature, Linguistics, and Creative Writing) and 9 in History have been appointed since 2007. The recruitment of a small cadre of senior staff (at Professorial and Reader level) accompanied by a larger body of very talented young researchers has dramatically widened the span of the Department's research interests and supervisory expertise. In addition, our infrastructure for supporting postgraduates is second to none. Students will be supported on an individual level by their supervisory teams, but the progress and personal development of all our postgraduates will be monitored by a dedicated programme leader. We also promise an excellent working environment, with an individual work station for each full-time student, and a lively postgraduate community. There has never been a more exciting time to pursue a doctoral degree in Humanities at Northumbria.

New Postgraduate Opportunities

The Department is offering 15 Studentships as part of its annual Postgraduate Awards Scheme, to commence in September 2010. The Postgraduate Research Studentships have been designed to provide students with:

- High quality supervision from experts in their field
- Access to a programme of high-quality employability training
- Involvement in a vibrant research culture within the Department.

Successful applicants will receive:

- A full fee waiver (home and EU students only)
- £5k per annum bursary for 3 years (all students, including international)
- A 30-hour teaching preparation course involving teaching practice and shadowing of experienced staff
- Guaranteed teaching hours in years 2 and 3 of the programme
- A dedicated work station within a good quality working environment
- Access to funds to support research expenses (conferences or library visits).

Who we are looking for

We are looking to recruit candidates of the highest quality, with the capability of submitting excellent theses within the standard PhD duration of 3 years. You will need to demonstrate a strong performance in your first degree (probably a first) as well as a good MA qualification. We will, however, consider candidates straight from undergraduate degrees where there is evidence of exceptional academic ability. Prospective candidates from overseas should contact us concerning entry requirements.

Studentships in:

History

The Laboratory of Empire: Ireland and the British Empire, 1800-1939

Supervisor: james.mcconnel@northumbria.ac.uk

Feeling Faith: Religion and the Body in Eighteenth-Century England

Supervisor: sasha.handley@northumbria.ac.uk

Colonial Encounters: 'Greater Britons' in Britain and Ireland, 1890-1973

Supervisor: james.mcconnel@northumbria.ac.uk

US Civil War and Reconstruction History

Supervisor: david.gleeson@northumbria.ac.uk

African American Radicalism Post-1945

Supervisor: joe.street@northumbria.ac.uk

Irish Americans and Civil Rights Struggles of the 1960s

Supervisor: joe.street@northumbria.ac.uk

Irish Protestants in Nineteenth-Century Britain and America: A Comparison

Supervisor: don.macrauld@northumbria.ac.uk

Transnational Approaches to International History 1880-1940

Supervisor: charlotte.alston@northumbria.ac.uk

Transnational Labour History

Supervisor: daniel.laqua@northumbria.ac.uk

Medieval and Early Modern Spanish Women: Authorship, Education and Sponsorship Networks

Supervisor: a.cowan@northumbria.ac.uk

European Refugees in Britain since 1880

Supervisor: avram.taylor@northumbria.ac.uk

Creative Writing

Two Creative Writing Studentships are available.

Supervisor: michael.m.green@northumbria.ac.uk

English Literature

Early Modern Appropriations: Responses to the Renaissance Literary Canon from the Seventeenth Century to the Present Day

Supervisor: adam.hansen@northumbria.ac.uk

Republicanism in the Early Modern Period: Reading, Writing and Practice

Supervisor: david5.walker@northumbria.ac.uk

Fashioning the Body Politic: Medical and Political Discourses of the Body in the Eighteenth Century

Supervisor: clark.lawlor@northumbria.ac.uk

Female Authors and the Romantic-period Literary Salon

Supervisor: leigh.wetherall-dickson@northumbria.ac.uk

Trains, Planes and Automobiles: Modern Literature and New Technologies of Transport (1880-1950)

Supervisor: vike.m.plock@northumbria.ac.uk

Contemporary Sexualities/Contemporary Places: Theories and Representations of Sexualities and Place, 1990s to the Present

Supervisor: julie.scanlon@northumbria.ac.uk

Linguistics

World Englishes/English as an International Language

Supervisor: robert.mckenzie@northumbria.ac.uk

Variability and Redundancy in Linguistic Representation

Supervisor: ewa.dabrowska@northumbria.ac.uk

Learning Words from Context in L2

Supervisor: ewa.dabrowska@northumbria.ac.uk

Cognitive Linguistics

Supervisor: ewa.dabrowska@northumbria.ac.uk

Further Particulars and Applying

Once you have chosen your thesis topic, please apply to Gill Drinkald at the address below for further particulars and the relevant application form. When you apply, you will be asked to indicate whether you might want to be considered for any studentships listed other than the one for which you are directly applying. You will also be required to summarize in no more than 600 words why you feel interested in the thesis topic and how you would attempt to approach it. You may contact the named supervisor if you require advice about the thesis topic.

Deadline for applications is 18 March 2010.

Contact: Gill Drinkald, Senior Research Administrator,

Email: gill.drinkald@northumbria.ac.uk,

Tel: 0191 227 3880