

How to write a successful scholarship application

Richard Coyne • PG Dean Research CHSS

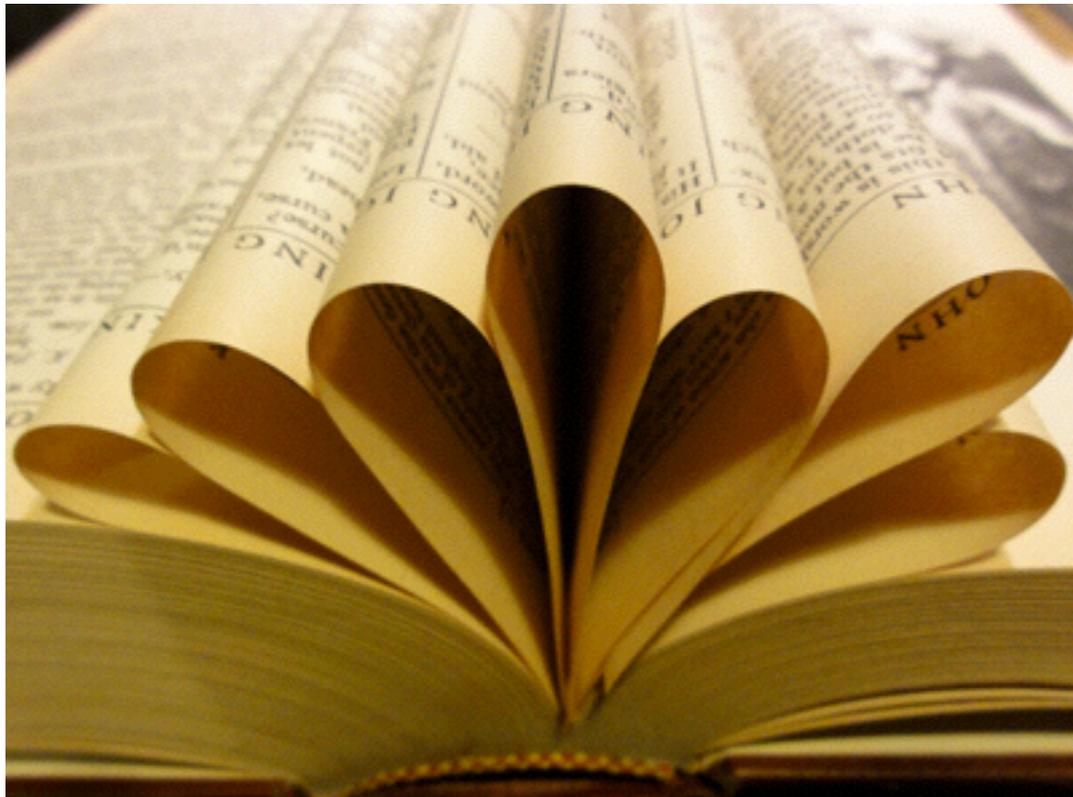
Stephen Bowd • PG Director HCA

Kirsty Woomble • PG Scholarships admin CHSS

Bobbie Nolan • HCA



College of Humanities and Social Science
The University of Edinburgh



Plan for the afternoon

- Introduction
- The research proposal
- The application
- Timeliness and impact of your research

<http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/student-funding/postgraduate/overview>



SCOTTISH 
GRADUATE 
SCHOOL FOR 
ARTS & 
HUMANITIES 

<http://www.sgsah.ac.uk/>

Closing date for SGSAH is 19 February 2016
Closing date for Univ. Edinburgh 8 January 2016

AHRC Studentship timetable 2016

UoE	Fri 8th Jan	Deadline for scholarship applications to UoE
	by 27th January	School/subject selection complete - send lists to College
	Fri 29th Jan	University/College panel confirming applicants to go forward
	Week of 1st Feb	Schools to work on applications/Institutional statements
SGSAH	8th Feb	Portal opens
	19th Feb	Portal closes
	24th Feb	Panel members receive applications for review
	until 18 March	panel review
	week of 21st March until 24th March	panels meet
	until 15 April	Exec review
	20th April	Exec meet
	25th April	awards announced

SCHOLARSHIPS AND STUDENT FUNDING

Scholarships and Student Funding home

Postgraduates ^

Funding for UK/EU students ^

College of Humanities and Social Science ^

Cross-disciplinary awards

College Research Awards

The Greenbank Scholarship

George Scott Travelling Scholarship

John Orr Research Award

Home > Scholarships & Student Funding > Postgraduates > Funding for UK/EU students

> College of Humanities and Social Science > Cross-disciplinary awards > College Research Awards

Contact us

College Research Awards

The College Research Student Awards scheme is designed to attract high quality students applying for PhD research.

Awards

Exact awards levels may differ depending on the intended School of study. Applicants should contact the School postgraduate office for further details.

Eligibility

Only those with the highest standard of academic qualifications can be successful, as College Research Awards are extremely competitive. For example, there are usually over 20 applicants for each award, and many have masters degrees.

When making our decisions we will:

- Consider the applicant's academic achievements, research proposal, research potential, any publications made, and the degree of support provided by references.
- Not take into account factors such as financial status and nationality.

When applying for these awards candidates must:

- Be seeking to start their first year of full-time or part-time PhD study (not MSc by Research) in the academic year September 2015 to August 2016.
- Be of outstanding academic merit and research potential.
- Include in their personal statements reference to achievements made and their own assessment of their future potential.
- Be strongly supported by the references given in support of their PhD application.
- Send us their completed award applications no later than the deadline date for their School. Any part-completed applications received will be discounted and become ineligible at that time. We cannot accept any additional supporting information after the deadline date.
- Note that the research proposal need not be overly long and, provided that it contains the key information, brevity is welcome.
- Note that, when started, the on-line award application must be completed – there is no facility to save a partly-completed application.
- Note that if College Award candidates are applying to study topics eligible for UK Research Council Awards then they must also apply to the relevant Research Council.

Applicants intending to do a PhD within the School of Economics and the School of History, Classics and Archaeology are not eligible for this award.

<http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/student-funding/postgraduate/uk-eu/humanities/cross-disciplinary/research-awards>
<http://www.ed.ac.uk/history-classics-archaeology/graduate-school/applying/funding/phd/ahrc>

Stage 1

Whilst completing this application you will be asked to provide the following:

- Your personal details
- Details of any degrees you hold or expect to hold
- Any relevant details from your employment or training history
- Details of journal articles you have had published
- **The topic of your proposed research**
- **A research outline of no more than 300 words**
- **A personal statement of no more than 300 words**
- Details of any other scholarships or awards you hold or have held

The proposal



Mather-L'Hullier, Nathalie. 2010. *How to Write a Good Postgraduate Research Proposal*. Edinburgh: The University of Edinburgh http://www.ed.ac.uk/polopoly_fs/1.105984!/fileManager/HowToWriteProposal.pdf

Research Proposal

Research proposal title

Research question

Research context, methods and sources (500 words maximum)

This section must describe your proposal. We are seeking original, innovative, cogent and coherent proposals, which are well-written in their entirety. The research question(s) should be clear and researchable. The methodology should be demonstrably appropriate and the whole proposal well-grounded in current literature and/or practice.

How can I be expected to come up with a coherent proposal at this early stage in my research career?

How can I be expected to come up with a coherent proposal at this early stage in my research career?

What does a proposal do?

Shows what you will do and why

Shows how you will do it

- Provides **evidence** of your ability to write, think, create and argue
- Indicates **fit** between you and your host, institution, employer or sponsor
- **Justifies** expenditure of funds and time
- A means of assessing what you want to do against **constraints** (e.g. time, money, space)
- Suggests a **contract**/agreement/promise
- Constructs a **scenario** (rather than a contract or prediction)
- Helps to establish **trust and confidence**

Research proposal title

States of Vigilance: A Study of Devotional Lyrics and State Formation in Seventeenth Century England

Research question

My thesis will attempt to chart a correspondence between State configuration and the production of devotional lyrics in England during the period 1590 – 1688. Focusing on the religious poetry of John Donne, George Herbert, Andrew Marvell, and Henry Vaughan, I will trace a sub-genre of the “poetic vigil,” expressive of and constituted by a dialectical reciprocity between observation and anticipation. This literary form finds its correlative in the ritual of the vigil in the Christian tradition: ‘an occasion of devotional watching or religious observation’ on the eve of a holy day (OED, 1.a).

In my discussion of Marvell and Vaughan, I will relate how the vigil forfeits straightforward transcendent abstraction, and the anticipation proper to the mode. I will examine in what way these formal features of the vigil were predicated upon a stability and immediacy of social relations, and ask to what extent such relations were disestablished in the consolidation of the nation state in England during the seventeenth century. I will ask, furthermore, how the resultant secularization of the vigil form is symptomatic of an existential state of vigilance forged during the fierce social and political conflicts of the civil wars. ...

Mobility, Mood and Place: a user-centred approach to design of built environments to make mobility easy, enjoyable and meaningful for older people

Which environments best engender and activate enabling moods for older adults? This project builds on a **pilot study** in which 12 able bodied subjects were kitted up with a lightweight backpack, GPS recorder and neural headset to record stress levels and others parameters as they walked through open parkland and busy streets. The oldest participant was 65. The proprietary neural gear is designed for use in computer gaming and neural marketing, is non intrusive and we were able to demonstrate measurable differences between responses to environmental conditions consistently across the subjects. This new study will consolidate and improve the methodology, and generate data from an additional 50 older adults (subject to power calculations based on pilot data already collected). The study will provide two main outcomes: (1) a robust, well-documented and easy to administer methodology that can be applied to evaluate subsequent interventions, and (2) an evaluation of outcomes generated by colleagues working on the design of outdoor spaces. The study will include people who have undergone stroke events, calling on local expertise to identify differences in stress points compared to healthy populations, subject to ethical constraints and the need for carers. This work package seeks to test three hypotheses that have arisen from our pilot study.

- Environments with positive affect promote thought-action repertoires in older adults that promote safety and reduce the propensity for accidents. We will correlate our neural measuring data with road safety and observational data that maps behavior in older people. We will replicate our study methodology in two contrasting environments.
- High density urban traffic is associated with high cognitive load requiring high levels of alertness.
- The character, or fixed traits, of participants mediates in this relationship.

The “elevator pitch”

- For a lay audience
- Short
- Coherent
- Delivered with enthusiasm and confidence
- May involve a research question
- Invites further inquiry
- Provisional
- Gets better over time
- Can be elaborated through further discussion
- Stimulus for a coherent academic proposal
- Helps define the *title* and *abstract* for a proposal

Session 1 (11h15-12h40)

Time and Culture (A)

moderator:

1. Elizabeth Cory- Lopez

The Bow-Drill and The Chipped Stone Flake: Insights into Cypriot Carving Techniques circa 3000BC

The aim of this paper is to demonstrate to the educated lay-person how archaeology uses material cultural to provide insights into how humanity got to be where it is today. I will use elements of my Masters Research into the Chalcolithic period of Cyprus and the Chaine Operatoire of stone carving as the basis for this talk.

2. Graham Ritchie

Chronological and Regional Variation in Late Mesolithic Chipped Stone Industries from Northern Britain: An Overview

This paper will outline the technological basis of the current chronology for the Late Mesolithic period in northern Britain. The ways in which this chronology can be refined using several discrete lithic assemblages will be demonstrated as part of a wider discussion of chipped stone assemblage variability.

3. Giovanna Guidicini

Renaissance in Scotland: a new use of space

With the arrival of Renaissance ideas from the continent, Scottish architecture developed an interesting and personal way of joining the traditional motif of defence with new needs for elegance and openness. Thus Scottish Renaissance architecture opens itself to the city, the private court and the landscape.

4. Lisa Graham

The Enigma of Western Cyprus in the Early-Middle Bronze Age: The Ceramic Evidence from Kissonerga-Ammoudhia

This paper will outline the ceramic assemblage from Kissonerga-Ammoudhia, discussing distinct regional differences and what this evidence may suggest with regard to the regionality of Cypriot society during the Bronze Age.

5. Farès K. Moussa

Survey of Stele from Punic Infant Cemeteries: Towards a Less Contingent Understanding of Punic 'World'

This paper will set out progress in developing a methodology for surveying stelae from Punic infant cemeteries in N Africa (c. 800 - 100 BC). This survey will form the basis of a study which will seek to transcend dominant extant treatments of the subject, which - I suggest - have fettered our understanding of Punic cosmology and tradition.

• <http://ace.caad.ed.ac.uk/JointGrads/conf/> • december 6th, 2005 • alison house, university of edinburgh • 10h00-17h00 •

Representation (B)

moderator:

1. Sophie Nichol Sauvé

Designing a View (with Wisdom)

The objective of the paper is to begin to grapple with the works of original thinkers about self, place, and space. By launching into the doctoral research through renowned philosophical text, the researcher hopes to center herself within the framing of a programme which is based on the premise that the current cityscape fails to reflect the changing position of women in society.

2. David Fortin

The Architectural Stain: Science Fiction Representation and the Visionary Concept

This paper explores the relationship between contemporary architecture and architecture as represented in science fiction film through a discussion of Slavoj Žižek and the films 'Minority Report' and 'City Lights'. The purpose of the research is not to suggest new conclusions, but rather to offer new insights through the various comparisons that may inform further research into the topic.

3. Helen Sharp

Shiny Shiny Talky Draw Words- How Do Text and Image 'get along' in the Installations of Artist Raymond Pettibon

In some of his work Pettibon appears to isolate a phrase or word and insert it into his drawing, not as a commentary but as an active graphic element. Can words transcend their 'wordiness' and slip between word and graphic? Can imagery envelop word and with this unification become a portal for the viewer to slide directly towards the artist's psyche? In posing, investigating and hopefully answering these and other questions I hope to unravel and ultimately reveal exactly how text and image 'get along' in the installations of Raymond Pettibon.

4. John Farrugia

System Exclusivity

The main focus of this area of my research revolves around the notion of 'group dynamic' and 'codes of conduct' within the monastic christian order known as The Equestrian Order of the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre. This paper relies heavily on historical/theological & narratological analysis channeled through a fine art practice-based methodological approach, and its relevance within contemporary society.

Representation (B)

moderator:

1. Sophie Nichol Sauvé

Designing a View (with Wisdom)

The objective of the paper is to begin to grapple with the works of original thinkers about self, place, and space. By launching into the doctoral research through renowned philosophical text, the researcher hopes to center herself within the framing of a programme which is based on the premise that the current cityscape fails to reflect the changing position of women in society.

2. David Fortin

The Architectural Stain: Science Fiction Representation and the Visionary Concept

This paper explores the relationship between contemporary architecture and architecture as represented in science fiction film through a discussion of Slavoj Žižek and the films 'Minority Report' and 'City Lights'. The purpose of the research is not to suggest new conclusions, but rather to offer new insights through the various comparisons that may inform further research into the topic.

3. Helen Sharp

Shiny Shiny Talky Draw Words- How Do Text and Image 'get along' in the Installations of Artist Raymond Pettibon

In some of his work Pettibon appears to isolate a phrase or word and insert it

A strong proposal

- Contains a **clear** proposition and/or question
- Sets up a **question** that can be answered (**outcomes** that can be delivered)
- If it contains several propositions then these are connected, i.e. there is a **structure**
- **Relevant** to some constituency or other (has an audience)
- Follows the **format** required (length, headings, terminology, criteria)
- Stands on its own without needing further information
- Does not use the proposal as a means of protest
- Does not contain excuses or invoke special pleading
- Is **intelligible** to (sympathetic) non-experts
- Provides a means of bringing the proposer to **account**
- Shows **critical** thinking

Panels will rank the applications in relation to the following **criteria**:

- Qualifications
- Preparedness for research
- Quality of research proposal: context, proposed methodology, originality and innovation – including interdisciplinary research, cogency, potential impact and importance of project, plans for engagement and dissemination beyond academia
- Fit between student, project and research environment
- Supervisory expertise – including cross-HEI supervision where there is demonstrable benefit for the student/the project

Scoring

- Qualifications OR relevant professional experience (maximum of 10)
- Preparedness for research (maximum of 5)
- Quality of research proposal: context, proposed methodology, originality & innovation – including interdisciplinary research, cogency & importance of project (maximum of 10)
- Clarity & strength of plans for knowledge exchange, public engagement & impact, including dissemination beyond academia (maximum of 5)
- Fit between student, project & research environment, including cross-HEI supervision where there is demonstrable benefit for the student/research project (maximum of 10)

Panels

<http://www.sgsah.ac.uk/about/panels/#/panelb,panelc,panela>

Stage 2 application guidelines

<http://www.sgsah.ac.uk/dtp/applicationprocess/>

What goes on the application form?

- Qualifications
- Relevant professional experience (300 words maximum)
- Preparedness for study (300 words maximum)
- Research context, methods and sources (500 words maximum)
- Research Impact (500 words maximum)
- Academic impact
- Economic and societal impacts
- Personal statement (300 words maximum)
- Training needs assessment (300 words maximum)
- Nominating Member of Staff and Email

Research impact (500 words maximum)

Please note: we have provided more guidance on impact as a result of applicant feedback.

The UK Research Councils want to encourage researchers to be actively involved in thinking about how they will achieve excellence with impact and to explore the pathways for realising impacts. AHRC-funded students in SGSAH will be able to apply for funding to support activities which realise impact. Research Councils UK (RCUK) describe what it means by impact on its website here:

<http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/ke/impacts/meanbyimpact/>

When we ask you to describe the impact your research might have, we are not asking you to answer your research question(s) or to anticipate the results of your research. Instead we are asking you to consider more broadly who both within and beyond academia may be interested in and/or benefit by your research and its findings; and to describe what methods you might use to engage with these people or groups during and after your research.

You might find these questions helpful in thinking about impact:

- **What** is happening – or not happening – now that you think your research findings could help to change?
- **Who** might be interested or involved in delivering or experiencing the change that may happen as a result of your findings?
- **Why** would these communities be interested? How might they benefit?
- **How** will you engage/communicate/network with these communities?
- **How** would you demonstrate/evidence any changes and the link back to your research findings, bearing in mind that you will be able to apply for funding to develop impact?

<http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/ke/impacts/meanbyimpact/>

Some tips

- Include a research question that looks like a question
- Explain what you are going to do for the period of study (read books, run workshops, study an archive, interview people, make something, field work ...)
- Provide a plan
- Say how you will take advantage of the SGSAH resources
- Admit to training needs

Research Impact

States of Vigilance: A Study of Devotional Lyrics and State Formation in Seventeenth Century England

This research is important and worth investigating for two reasons. Firstly, in examining the relationship between lyric poetry and state formation my research will contribute to a greater understanding of the full impact of re-structured social models and institutions upon cultural production, as well as on the intellectual, spiritual, and expressive life of the individual. In the wake of the 2008 financial crisis, austerity measures have made the role and function of the State a more current and public debate in Britain than it has been for over thirty years; my work would contribute to establishing a research environment within the university system and the humanities that reflects pressing social issues and enhances, in turn, opportunities for engaging and informing the terms of public debate. Secondly, my research will make a valuable and usefully distinct contribution to the scholarship and theorisation of lyric in early modern literature; whereas recent historicist perspectives on politics and poetry in the seventeenth century have largely focused on political topicality – most often in Marvell and Milton during the civil wars – my work will pursue the political historicity of lyric form over a broader period. In so doing, I will assist with a stronger understanding of how variously cultural artefacts may be seen to respond to the intellectual and social urgencies of their time.

I will have an integrated approach to the dissemination of my ideas, both within and outside of an academic setting. Firstly, I will keep an on-line academic blog throughout the period of my research. I believe this to be a valuable new tool both in terms of improving academic outreach and as a component of a researcher's training – helping to refine communication and writing skills. There are also a number of publications that I am keen to see my work appear in. Forum, the University of Edinburgh Postgraduate Journal of Culture & the Arts, will offer the opportunity to present aspects of my research within a peer-reviewed publication and allow for exchange, debate, and scrutiny within the graduate community. Further to this, there are some non-academic newsprint and online publications that would be particularly receptive to submissions from me dealing with the implications of my work, that is, critical essays on contemporary literary and cultural production which present fresh perspectives on the intersections of social and political change with developments in aesthetic form and technique. Such publications would include the Glasgow-based Variant journal (which plans to resume publication in the near future), and Mute Magazine in London.

In addition to these activities I would very much like to develop a working relationship with the Scottish Poetry Library, and avail of their access to local networks of poets, critics, and readers, to investigate running a seminar series themed on 'The Public World of Lyric Poetry'. The series would be aimed towards challenging Public/Private dichotomies and notions of autonomy that are associated with personal experience and the lyric form. Seminars would involve close readings of

form. Seminars would involve close readings of poems from the early modern period through to the modernisms of the twentieth- and twenty-first centuries, asking how the works of certain lyric poets subvert and problematize these categories. An academic conference on the same theme could be hosted at the University of Edinburgh as the culmination of the series, with guest speakers from throughout academic and poetry communities in the UK.

Impact

Who will benefit from this research?

For the successful application of our research findings to everyday challenges and opportunities, we will take a cross-cutting approach to the types of stakeholders we engage with and to the ways in which we engage with them. The research beneficiaries will be:

- Local, central and European government, including elected members and officials; Thinktanks and non-departmental public bodies.
- Public sector practitioners in health, housing and social care; Professional organisations spanning these sectors.
- Private sector practitioners in planning, urban design, product design, architecture, landscape architecture, transport consultancy and highways engineering; Professional member organisations spanning these sectors; Mobility and telecare industry.
- Not-for-profit organisations and charities spanning sectors outlined above, plus those dedicated to older people's issues; Older people, their families and carers.
- Academic networks promoting interdisciplinary work in sectors outlined above.

How will they benefit from this research?

Mobility, Mood and Place is rooted in co-creative principles, with projected outputs tailored to the advancement, not only of academic expertise but also of the UK's wider knowledge base, its society, people and economy. As an interdisciplinary team, we have excellent existing connections within different spheres of influence and sectors and will achieve maximum socio-economic impact by strengthening the networks between them.

Mobility, Mood and Place • Impact

We have a clear perspective on where ageing and mobility issues sit within the focus of the four UK governments, with whom we have established good contacts. Our team has input into health, quality of life and social inclusion strategies at the critical early stages, including the new Five Year Ageing Well programme in Wales, which will evolve as our project does. By the end of Mobility, Mood and Place we will have produced a series of policy papers. They will offer sustainable, long-term options to those tasked with reducing health inequalities among older populations.

We have strong links with Local Government bodies and various individual councils and health boards. Liaising with them will assist in identifying live research sites and facilitate direct engagement with older stakeholders for research recruitment and communication. We will include design principles and exemplars among our outputs, developed collaboratively by student/early career designers, researchers and older people. This will enhance designers' skills before they enter professional practice and refine a model for workshops to be more widely used in architectural education.

We know that age-friendly services can give manufacturers a competitive advantage in the marketplace. Through business-led position papers based on academic evidence, we will provide feedback to industry from an older population with an increasing economic profile and influence. Our work will aid understanding of underlying reasons for different physical behaviours and emotional responses to place, and therefore how people might respond to different interventions in the built environment. We will facilitate training events that bring together professional organisations, so that each develops an understanding of how the others assess, interpret and meet user needs.

Many older people are themselves active in lobbying for more age-friendly design. We aim to better enable them to do so, e.g. through social networking. To reach those who are not technologically enabled, as well as other user groups, we will secure the partnership of charities and not-for-profit organisations. We will work with stakeholders to promote the positive effects of care home residents remaining active in the community and to assist care providers in making more informed choices with respect to the mobility of older service users, including the significant proportion (~50%) with some form of dementia.

Remember

- Start early, get feedback, revise
- You are presenting a scenario, convey confidence, direction, organisation, understanding, as if you've already started
- Explain what you will do for 3 years, i.e. method
- Practice-led PhDs are eligible
- Provide context and key references
- Use nominating staff effectively to help in your application: allow time, know the work of potential supervisors, feed them with as much text/info as you can
- It will be read by non experts
- Get help with proof reading

<http://www.sgsah.ac.uk/dtp/applicationprocess/>

Scholarship Clinic

10 December 2015 12:00 to 15:00

Eventbrite created for students to RSVP by 30 November.

Once list is finalized they will be assigned a time slot between 12 to 15:00 in 15 minute increments.

They will be emailed with their assigned time prior to the event. Slots will be booked until gone.

With 3 reviewers there would be 36 potential slots.