- Midlands4Cities Application Briefing for 2024 entry.

- These slides provide a summary of the recruitment process.

- Further information is available on www.midlands4cities.ac.uk

This briefing for 2024 entry will cover:

- What is M4C?

- Context and funding

- M4C priorities

- Awards

- Application process

- M4C application assessment criteria

- Contact details

Midlands4Cities
Doctoral Training Partnership
Birmingham Coventry Leicester Nottingham

UKRI
Arts and Humanities Research Council

Partner institutions

Birmingham City University

University of Birmingham

Coventry University

University of Warwick

De Montfort University

University of Leicester

Nottingham Trent University

University of Nottingham

AHRC M4C Site Directors:

Birmingham City University
Dr Oliver Carter
Dr Sarah Cooper

University of Birmingham
Dr Klaus Richter
Professor Gillian Wright

Coventry University
Professor Mel Jordan
Dr Victoria Thoms

University of Warwick
Dr Ross Forman
Professor David Lambert

De Montfort University
Dr Alissa Clarke
Professor John Young

University of Leicester
Dr Claire Brock
Dr Isobel Whitelegg

Nottingham Trent University
Professor Gill Allwood
Professor Nahem Yousaf

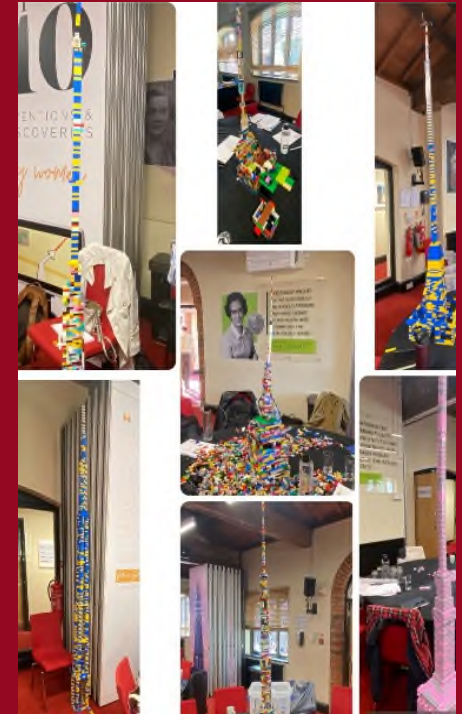**University of Nottingham**
Dr Joanna Martin
Professor Gillian Roberts

What is M4C?

- a thriving community of postgraduate research students producing world class research

- promotes collaborative postgraduate research, joint supervision and partner engagement with organisations in the cultural, creative and heritage sectors

- develops professional and research training initiatives in the UK and internationally

- supports training activities in areas such as policy engagement and the digital humanities

- offers placement opportunities and the chance to develop cohort activities with researchers in other DTPs

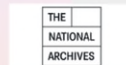- provides post-completion support, including an alumni network

What is M4C?

We have 8 HEI partners across four cities

University of Birmingham

Birmingham City University

University of Warwick

Coventry University

De Montfort University

University of Leicester

Nottingham Trent University

University of Nottingham

M4C has over 80 collaborative partners. These include:

www.midlands4cities.ac.uk/partners

Schemes

- Open Competition up to 70 awards this year
- Collaborative Doctoral Award (CDA) Competition 16 awards this year
- M4C/ Stuart Hall Foundation studentships

Distribution of awards

No quota allocation of studentships to institutions or to subject areas

Types of award

- Full-time
- Part-time
- Full (fees and stipend) studentships

Eligibility

Awards for **UK residents** cover UK tuition fees and provide a stipend at the UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) rate

International students will also be able to apply for an AHRC funded postgraduate studentship for the start of the 2024 academic year. They will be eligible for tuition fees at the UK rate and a stipend to support living costs. UKRI (AHRC) funding will not cover international fees set by universities or the costs associated with obtaining a visa. Please see the UKRI website for further details. EU applicants are now classified as international students.

M4C priorities

To fund and support outstanding research

To enhance opportunities for PGR collaboration between partner institutions
- Cohort activities, cross-institutional supervision teams

To promote researcher engagement with non-university organisations
- Where applicable, impact and public engagement/dissemination activities should be identified at the point of application

To provide placement and training opportunities for funded researchers
- Employability placements
- Research placements
- Training needs and potential placements should be identified at the point of application

AHRC subject coverage

- Archaeology
- Classics
- Cultural and Museum Studies
- Dance
- Design
- Development Studies
- Drama and Theatre Studies
- History
- Information and Communication Studies
- Languages and Literature
- Law and Legal Studies
- Library and Information Studies
- Linguistics
- Media
- Music
- Philosophy
- Political Science and International Studies
- Theology, Divinity and Religion
- Visual Arts

AHRC/ESRC overlap subjects:

- Area Studies
- Culture, Communication, & Media Studies
- Cultural Policy and Management
- Education
- Gender Studies
- Geography
- Law
- Politics & International Relations
- Science and Technology Studies
- Social Anthropology

The full AHRC subject remit and proposal classification can be found on pages 67 – 77 AHRC Research Funding guide here:

https://www.ukri.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/AHRC-240723-ResearchFundingGuide.pdf

Awards

Indicative rate for the 2023/2024 academic year

Full-time
Fees £4,712
Maintenance grant £18,622

Part-time
Fees £2,356
Maintenance grant £9,311

Additional funding to support research activity is available to apply for during the PhD.

Duration of Awards

Open competition award - **3.5 years baseline funding** (but a case can be made to extend this for up to 6 months at the point of application or at the mid-year review in the first year, subject to the requirements of the project). Submission within 4 years.

Collaborative Doctoral Award – **4 years** (funding and submission)

Additional Funding

Research Development Fund (RDF)

The RDF is designed to support primary research activities for individual students, including:
- Participation in conferences
- Primary research/archive/fieldwork visits
- Study visits in the UK and overseas

Engagement Fund (EF)

The EF will allow students who are undertaking placements and other activities that are engaged with professional development to access additional funds to support them. The Engagement Fund will cover accommodation, travel and other associated costs, including specialist training.

Cohort Development Fund (CDF)

- Devised and led by a minimum of two doctoral researchers from two or more M4C institutions
- Conference, workshop, symposia, retreats, skills training
- Research networking training and development activities
- Discipline-crossing research
- Researcher-led responses to external partner challenge themes
- Innovative training for language researchers

Application process for 2024 entry

Application deadline: 10 January 2024 at noon GMT
   (All guidance and link to the online application portal live on M4C website on 16 October 2023)

Stage one:
Choose between Open Doctoral Competition and CDA

  – Open competition: identify potential supervisors
  – CDA: select project and contact lead supervisor

Under M4C rules, a candidate can submit applications to both the Open and CDA competitions

CDA projects listed on the M4C website; https://www.midlands4cities.ac.uk/find-a-project/

HEI	Project Title	Partner Organisation	Lead HEI Supervisor	Email	Lead non-HEI supervisor	Email
BCU	Reframing the suburban cinema: community, memory, and new opportunities	Flatpack	Dr David Harte	dave.harte@bcu.ac.uk	Ian Francis	ian@flatpackfestival.org.uk
BCU	The Incidental Artist approach: contemporary reworkings of the methods and legacies of the Artist Placement Group 1966-1989.	Flat Time House	Dr Sian Vaughan	sian.vaughan@bcu.ac.uk	Gareth Bell-Jones	gareth@flattimeho.org.uk
CU	Cross-Cultural Experiences of Grief and Bereavement through a Creative Lens	Cruse Bereavement Support	Dr Sarah Turner	sarah.turner@coventry.ac.uk	Andy Langford	Andy.Langford@cruse.org.uk
CU	A critical history of British dance teaching: Creating and reactivating the archive of the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing (ISTD).	Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing (ISTD)	Victoria Thoms	victoria.thoms@coventry.ac.uk	Gemma Matthews	gmatthews@istd.org
DMU	Dressed for the Field: Gender, Bodies, and Society through the Material Culture of Field Hockey, 1880 to the Present	The Hockey Museum	Dr Heather L. Dichter	heather.dichter@dmu.ac.uk	Shane Smith	shane.smith@hockeymuseum.org
DMU	Frameworks of transdisciplinary practice for the creation of interactive and immersive XR experiences, incorporating generative AI and real-time data sources	Holovis International	Professor Sophy Smith	ssmith05@dmu.ac.uk	Stuart Edgington	stuart.edgington@holovis.com
NTU	A Poetical Science: Exploring Art, Feminism and Technology through Contemporary Curatorial Practice	Nottingham Contemporary	Danica Maier	danica.maier@ntu.ac.uk	Nicole Yip	NicoleYip@nottinghamcontemporary.org
NTU	Bathroom to Bedroom: interpreting early modern bodily functions	Shakespeare Birthplace Trust	Professor Peter J Smith	peter.smith@ntu.ac.uk	Dr Anjna Chouhan	anjna.chouhan@shakespeare.org.uk
UoB	Commemorating the Equal Franchise Act and Historicising Women's Social and Political Lives at National Trust Properties in 1920s Britain	National Trust	Dr Zoe Thomas	z.thomas@bham.ac.uk	Helen Antrobus	Helen.Antrobus@nationaltrust.org.uk
UoB	To the Streets: effective interventions in the community arts ecology of the West Midlands.	China Plate	Dr Adam Ledger	a.j.ledger@bham.ac.uk	Ed Collier	ed@chinaplatetheatre.com
UoL	Bradgate Park in a wider world: a historical-archaeological investigation of the colonial connections of an elite estate	Bradgate Park Trust (BPT)	Richard Thomas	rmt12@leicester.ac.uk	James Dymond	Director@bradgatepark.org
UoL	Facing up to the Past:Challenging Histories & Changing Future Conversations at the UK British Psychological Society	The British Psychological Society	Professor Elizabeth T. Hurren	eh140@leicester.ac.uk	Sophie O'Reilly	Sophie.OReilly@bps.org.uk
UoN	THRIVE – Creative AI for those facing disabling barriers to music engagement.	Sinfonia Viva & Orchestras Live	Professor Craig Vear	craig.vear@nottingham.ac.uk	Sooree Pillay	sooree@orchestraslive.org.uk
UoN	Understanding language heritages, supporting literacies and cultural enrichment	Nottingham UNESCO City of Literature (NUCoL)	Nicola McLelland	Nicola.mclelland@nottingham.ac.uk	Hannah Trevarthen (NUCoL Director)	hannah@nottmcityoflit.org
UoW	Creolising Caribbean foodways: Breadfruit from the mid-nineteenth century to the present	Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew	Professor David Lambert	d.lambert@warwick.ac.uk	Dr Caroline Cornish	C.Cornish@kew.org
UoW	Theatre and the Aristocracy: Passion, Patronage, Power and Politics, 1771-1893	The Bedford Estates	Dr David Coates	D.J.Coates@warwick.ac.uk	Nicola Allen	Nicola.Allen@woburn.co.uk

Application process for 2024 entry

After choosing the Open Competiton or a CDA project –

Stage two

▪ Apply for a place at your chosen M4C institution
  Consult 'home' university PhD application pages

▪ Find two academic references
   The M4C online reference form **MUST** be used - You need to
   nominate and provide details of two referees via the M4C online
   application portal so that they can be contacted to provide your
   reference. Your referee will be sent an automated request to
   complete the M4C reference form

Application process for 2024 entry

Stage three

Apply for M4C funding

Submission via M4C online application portal
- Guidance notes for applicants and link to online application form are available on the website
- Supervisor search pages for each of the M4C universities

- You will need your Applicant ID number – to be provided by home institution
- Shortlisted applicants will also have an interview at their home institution.

Successful applicants notified by the end of April 2024.

M4C/Stuart Hall Foundation Studentship

We are delighted to announce a new partnership between the Stuart Hall Foundation and Midlands4Cities Doctoral Training Partnership (M4C) to support one or two studentships a year for black, Asian and minority ethnic applicants to undertake doctoral research in arts and humanities.

As well as the usual benefits of an M4C studentship, successful applicants will benefit from working with SHF to develop their career and research profile. Post holders will be able to engage with and contribute to the resources and networks of the Stuart Hall Foundation, including an annual gathering of Stuart Hall Foundation Scholars and Fellows, and privileged access to the work of the Foundation.

Eligibility:
- Eligible applicants will be those classed as having 'home students' fee status and identify as belonging to a minoritized and under-represented ethnic groups.

- **To apply:**
- Indicate your wish to be considered for an M4C/SHF Studentship.

- This will bring up an open text box, in which you should outline why you wish to be considered and what you would offer.

- Your application for an M4C/SHF studentship will be considered at a later point in the recruitment process, by the Stuart Hall Foundation as well as by M4C processes.

- For full details see www. Midlands4cities.ac.uk. There will be an additional briefing for SHF Studentship applicants advertised shortly.

M4C Assessment Criteria: a fuller account is available on the M4C website

PROJECT
- Is the project focused? Is the student proposing to use an appropriate research methodology? Does the student demonstrate that they know the field? Is a case made for the project's cutting edge qualities in relation to existing scholarship?

PERSON
- Quality of student (evidence might include a First Class degree and excellent MA-level marks; or a good first degree and professional or other experience relevant to the project; or a combination of these models). Does the applicant have the right skills and knowledge to undertake the project?

PREPAREDNESS
- Is the student prepared for the proposed programme of study? Do they have relevant UG and/or MA degrees? Do they have relevant language and/or IT skills? Are they familiar with, for example, the need to undertake archival work, if appropriate?

PLACE
- Does the project have a good 'fit' with the department or School, or to particular research Centres or Institutes? Are there particular staff members with expertise in the proposed area, and who would make an ideal supervisory team?
- Fit to M4C? Opportunities for cross-HEI supervision? Relationships with partners?

Tips to ensure your referees submit their references on time:

1. Read and follow the guidance notes before submitting your reference request.

2. Check that your referee has received the reference request. It may have been delivered to their spam/junk.

3. Complete the M4C reference request section of the application form as early as possible but no later than 1st December. Do not leave it until the Christmas break when many colleagues are unavailable.

4. In most cases, your referee is only required to complete the M4C reference form. These will be used by the Admissions Office at your home university and in support of your M4C funding application.

5. Referees should wait for the automated email requesting a reference and not sign up to the online platform as an applicant to submit a reference.

6. It is the applicant's responsibility to monitor the reference progress and check that everything has been receive

7. Double check that you have inputted the correct email address for your referee.

8. Applications cannot be submitted without 2 completed references.

Contact details

Midlands4Cities DTP:

website: http://www.midlands4cities.ac.uk

- email: enquiries@midlands4cities.ac.uk

M4C Universities:

- University of Birmingham: ahrcapplications@contacts.bham.ac.uk
- Birmingham City University: M4C@bcu.ac.uk
- University of Warwick: m4c@warwick.ac.uk
- Coventry University: m4c.fah@coventry.ac.uk
- De Montfort University Leicester: M4C@dmu.ac.uk
- University of Leicester: ahrcdtp@leicester.ac.uk
- Nottingham Trent University: ahrcdtpapplications@ntu.ac.uk
- University of Nottingham: pg-funding@nottingham.ac.uk