A St Andrews PhD

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A St Andrews PhD – event funded by QAA Scotland - Enhancement Themes

- Topics that all Scottish universities focus on at the same time, to make the quality of teaching and learning experience even better.
- Until 2017 the theme is **Student Transitions**
- Directed by Scottish higher education Enhancement Committee (SHEEC) and coordinated by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education Scotland (QAAS).
- A little bit of money.......
So welcome to an afternoon of thinking about your future

• Supporting your transition
  – Give information on further study opportunities
  – Opportunity to meet with PhD students
  – Reflect on how your current studies develop you to prepare for research
Now
Is a PhD for me? And the transition from PGT-PGR
Where to look for funding: a demonstration of Fund
What we’re looking for in an application
The application experience and the PhD interview
What are Doctoral Training Centres (DTCs)?

The PhD experience 1st, 2nd and 3rd year PGR representatives
School discussions and refreshment break:
A chance to question current PhDs

Where do PhDs go?
A PhD alumni’s experience
Q&A panel discussion
Thinking about a PhD?

• I want to be an academic
• Because my dissertation supervisor says I would be a brilliant PhD student!
• Because it is expected of me (family, friends, peers)
• Because I am really interested in the topic and want to spend the next 3+ years researching and writing about it
• Because it will enhance my employability
• Because I can’t think what else to do and besides it is fun/comfy/friendly here at St Andrews and I don’t want to leave
Is a PhD for me?

• Are you motivated enough to undertake a PhD?
• Are you patient enough to do a PhD?
• Genius is hard work / intelligence – can you work hard for 3-4 years on one question?
• Are your dependents (if you have them) fully supportive?
• Do your research goals marry well with those of your potential supervisor?
• Is your potential supervisor a good fit for you (track record and research excellence)?
• Is the PhD intellectually challenging enough?
• Will doing a PhD enhance the type of career you want to pursue?
• Do you have the necessary funds to pay for your studies?
• Do you have the necessary qualifications?
Some random advice

• Consider taking a break
• Opportunity to expand your knowledge and skills
• Your area of research for your Masters need not dictate your PhD
• Do your research
• Ask about training and opportunity to teach?
Transition

• Some Schools permit/encourage a smooth transition from Masters to PhD or MPhil
• One arm of the Transition work at St Andrews was to develop clear and transparent information for students and staff on the process
Student Transition at St Andrews

• Principles of transition
  – No double counting of time or work
  – Progression dependent on performance
• PGDip – 120 credits taught modules – 2 semesters
• MSc – 120 credits taught modules + 60 credit dissertation – 2 semesters plus summer
• MPhil (taught) – 120 credit taught modules plus long dissertation – 2 semesters plus one year
• MSc (by research) – one year research
• MPhil – two years research
• PhD – 3 or 4 years
• Building blocks
Contact a supervisor – discuss a project

Apply to the University for admission
Make it known to the School that you want to be considered for funding

Search for funding opportunities
Find out how other students are funded; ask supervisor; search online (University, Research Council and Charities)
A SAMPLE E-MAIL FOR A POTENTIAL SUPERVISOR

Dear Professor Smith salutation is title and last name... and the title should be the one they use (Professor or Dr - NEVER Mrs!)
I read your recent publication in the journal [xxxx] about [xxxx] and I was particularly interested in [the methodology you have developed]. give a specific reference and show you have read it by picking out a key point.
I am a final year undergraduate working on a similar topic with [name of current supervisor] at the University of [name]. I will complete my degree next summer and I am expected to graduate in the top 5% of my class (I won the class prize last year). Keep details short but talk yourself up with a specific highlight.
Although my supervisor suggested I stay for a PhD, she cannot provide funding. Indicates that your supervisor thinks highly of you. Also shows that you need funding, but without asking directly whether Prof Smith has money.
In addition, I would really like to work with you! Move back from money to Prof Smith’s ego. Exclamation marks are generally to be avoided, but here it has the effect of lightening the compliment and conveying enthusiasm.
Do you plan to take on students next year? Asking a direct question makes a reply far more likely. This one also allows for the person not to feel bad about sending a negative response (‘sorry, I have too many students’)
I have attached a copy of a poster I presented at the student Christmas conference. It is good to show something, but try to avoid an attachment. E.g., paste into the body of an e-mail or make yourself a word-press page with pictures of you and, e.g., a poster or other written work.
I would be grateful for your advice on how to proceed.
Sincerely, Andy use your preferred name

Andy Student give your full name
University of the West...
full contact details, including web address, Skype if you use it, Linkedin if you use it etc.)
• Looking back
• PhD was the opportunity to spend 3+ years totally dedicated and focused on something I was completely passionate about
• Hugely rewarding and the springboard to my career
• Never again in life will you have this luxury
• Life gets in the way and more complicated!
I will be around for questions later

• At the Q & A
• At the reception
• Next Finding Funding.............
How PhD applications work in Biology

• Annual advertisement on FindaPhD.com, with a closing date in December
• Second round in spring (if funding available)
• Supervisors can select up to two for interview
• Skype or in person (supervisor pays travel)
• Panel sees all candidates and sets quality bar
Getting an interview
(how not to)

Dear Professor,
Dear Professor White,
Dear Professor Grey,

I have unparallelled attention to detail.
My English language skills are excellent.

I am very interested in your work.
I am very interested in your work on CRISPR.
I am very interested in your work on T-cells.

I am really interested in your research topic that and I was wondering if you have a PhD position available in your lab for.

I am really looking forward to your answer and I am highly motivated to prospectively join and encourage you team.

THE NEUROBIOLOGY OF WRITING

I have unparallelled attention to detail.
My English language skills are excellent.
What are we looking for?

- Good academic record
- Good lab experience
- Good English
- Enthusiasm for science
- Enthusiasm for project offered
- Good references
• PhD’s typically funded for 3 or 4 years
• Stipend around £15k per annum
• Fees depend on nationality
• Self-funding possible
• Some specific fellowships (Carnegie, Commonwealth, Chinese Academy etc.)
Getting an offer

• Be prepared!
• Enthusiasm
• Show evidence of researching topic
• In depth understanding
• Genuine reason to do a PhD...
• ... at St Andrews ...
• ... in this particular lab
A St Andrews PhD
Applications and Interviews

Dr. Bhavya Rao
Careers Adviser, Research
Resources

PhD Funding Fair
A Postgraduate Studentships Specialist Funding Event

01 Dec 2016

TARGET postgrad
courses, funding and fairs

The FindAMasters & FindAPhD Postgraduate Study Fair, London - 26 October 2016

Please find information about the Postgraduate Study Fair, London below.
Resources

Other PG study videos here (signup required).

Search for “Postgrad”

www.st-andrews.ac.uk/careers/videos
Why take on a PhD?
Reasons for applying

Figure 1 What are the 3 main reasons you are considering postgraduate study? Tick 3 answers

- Because I’m passionate about the subject: 68%
- To get a better job: 62%
- To earn more money in the long run: 44%
- Because I need to for my chosen profession: 42%
- To get a job in academia: 27%
- Because I’ll struggle to get a job this year: 21%
- To stay in the region for another year: 8%
Application process FAQ
“Is my St Andrews Master’s an advantage?”

Why yes, yes it is indeed.

- Access to supervisors, and their brains
- “Lots of conversations over the year might lead to an application.”

Recent Graduate Discount

[Link to recent graduate discount information]
“Is the PhD application the same as my Master’s?”

No. In fact, **NO!**

- Supervisor rapport is more important:
  - “Expected; Strongly encouraged; Required”

- Research Proposal

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* Upload Research Proposal

A 500 word outline (1,000 words for applications to International Relations and Philosophy) of proposed research topic.

Browse... No file selected.

* Upload Academic Writing Sample

A 2,000 word (3,000-5,000 word for applications to the School of English) critical essay such as an extract from a previous project or essay, or part of your thesis.

Browse... No file selected.

I found about this programme/research through
“Do I have the same funding options?”

That’ll be a No.

More funding options, but none of them guaranteed!
“Do I have the same funding options?”

Please tell us how you will be mainly funding your training and research

- I am applying for a UK Research Council studentship
- Please Select
- I will be funding myself (savings/loans/employment)
- I am applying for a UK Research Council studentship
- I am being sponsored by a non-UK agency or charity
- I will be receiving a bursary or scholarship
- My employer will be providing financial support (University of St Andrews is not considered an employer)
- I will be funding my studies through some other means

Please provide further information if you are applying for a UK Research Council studentship
“Do I have the same funding options?”

Bursaries and Scholarships

I will be applying for a scholarship through the University of St Andrews

- Yes  - No

Please enter details of the scholarship such as the award scheme or code

I will be applying for a bursary or scholarship not administered through the University of St Andrews

- Yes  - No
“Do I have the same funding options?”

Scottish Graduate School for Arts & Humanities AHRC-funded PhD Studentship Competition 2016

The Scottish Graduate School for Arts and Humanities is Scotland’s consortium for AHRC postgraduate funding.

Students who want to apply for SGSAH funding for the PhD must first have an application for PhD study accepted by one of the Scottish universities, and must then be selected as one of the applicants that university wishes to support. Applicants will normally hold a Masters qualification at the commencement of their doctoral study.

The deadline for SGSAH submission is in February.

Anyone who wants to be considered for selection will need to have applied to the School of Classics by 6 January 2017 at the latest, but we strongly encourage earlier applications. Candidates who contact potential supervisors or the Director of Postgraduate Studies in November or December will be at an advantage because we will have more time to help refine your SGSAH application form.

The SGSAH particularly values applications where there is a close fit between the PhD proposal and the research interests of the sponsoring department, so it’s worth thinking carefully about that at an early stage (for example we would be particularly keen to support application linked with our cluster of research expertise in classical Athenian literature and culture, or with one of our three centres—the Centre for the Literatures of the Roman Empire, the Centre for Landscape Studies and the Centre for Late Antique Studies—or else with any other area of individual staff expertise).

The SGSAH panel also particularly values applications where there is carefully thought out joint supervision between two Scottish institutions.
“Do I have the same funding options?”

Scholarships for research postgraduate programmes

St Andrews is committed to attracting the very best students, regardless of financial circumstances. Bursaries and scholarships are designed to provide assistance to help students support themselves during their time at university and also aim to reward academic excellence.

The following is an overview of research postgraduate scholarships currently on offer. Please select where you normally live from the list below.

UK/EU

Rest of the world

Research council funding
“Do I have the same funding options?”

Accessed through MySaint
Career Centre Funding database

Funding postgraduate study

Use the Careers Centre Funding Online Database to search for scholarships, studentships and other funding opportunities.

Postgraduate Loans - new scheme for Masters students
In the Chancellor's autumn statement in December 2014, it was announced that a postgraduate loan scheme will be implemented for English-domiciled students and EU students studying in English institutions from 2016-17. The scheme will offer students up to £10,000 to help with the costs of studying a masters degree. Students are eligible for the loans if they are under the age of 30 and are studying for a full-time masters, or part-time at 50% intensity or above. There are no subject restrictions. Further details.

The cost of postgraduate study is significant. In recent years it has become more difficult to secure funding for certain courses, particularly in arts-related disciplines. However bear in mind:

- There are still sources of funding available
- You'll need to be persistent in your search.
- Funding is allocated for a variety of reasons, not necessarily to the applicant with the highest grades.
- Scholarships can be awarded based on type of programme, nationality, extra-curricular activities or financial need.

Funding comes in the form of scholarships, grants, and bursaries, which are yours to keep, and loans, which you have to repay. Read the fine print before you accept an award so that you understand the terms and conditions.

Some courses have a small number of scholarships or bursaries attached to them. If this is not apparent on the course website, get in touch with the admission tutor for the course and ask if there is any funding attached to the course that you can apply for. Check with academic staff in your department to see if they know of any specific funding sources for the area of postgraduate study that you're interested in.
“Should I change my Personal Statement / CV?”

Yes. Yes! OH YES!

- You have more to offer now (or will have soon)
- More is expected of you
- You have a new project to work towards
Personal Statements

- Why this field? (Use a narrative..)
- Why us? (Be specific!)
- Why you?

- What will it mean for your career?
- How will you fund yourself?
- Why are you keen to pursue this topic?

Should focus on your academic suitability, with any other relevant experience, awards etc mentioned.
Academic Interviews
Interview

Please select one of the following options

- Please select an option
- I am unable to visit or attend interview
- I can attend interview or visit St Andrews
- I am available for Skype or phone interview

Your postgraduate study at St Andrews and what in your educational background makes you a particularly suitable candidate for graduate study in your chosen programme

* Upload Statement
  
  Browse...  No file selected.

* Upload CV
  
  Browse...  No file selected.

Continue »
“What will they ask me?”

- Why this?
- Why us?
- Why you?
- Technical questions

- Can you direct your own research?
- Have you done the reading?
- What will you do next?
- “Do you have any questions for us?”
6 St Mary’s Place, KY16 9UY

Opposite the Student Association

24 on the Campus Map

www.st-andrews.ac.uk/careers
Scholarships and Funding

Angela Johnston & Alice Carradice
Scholarships & Funding Project

- Over 600 Funds in the system
- Current year (2016/17) and New entry (2017/18) funding
- Over £10m PGR funding committed in 2016/17
- Funding available across all Schools
- Funding for Home and Overseas students
- Majority of PGR funding for duration of course (does not normally include continuation/write-up)
- Eligibility criteria is different for every fund
- Some funding requires the student to submit a final report/copy of thesis or a letter to the sponsor/donor
Types of Funding available

- Tuition fees
- Maintenance payments
  - Living expenses
  - Research expenses
- University accommodation
  - Accommodation Award
  - Off-set option
- Travel
- Projects and initiatives
- Financial assistance
  - Childcare, loans and other financial support available from Student Services
Orientation week
Monday 5th September

Orientation week starts on Monday 5 September
Find out about Orientation events and information in the Orientation guide.

Academic matters
- Advising
- Online matriculation
- Examinations
- Frequently Asked Questions - Exams
- Course Catalogue
- Timetabling Information
- Academic Skills Support
- More...

Accommodation
- Paying your tuition and/or accommodation fees
- Arrival Information
- Guide to residences
- Residence fees 2016-2017
- ResTel
- More...

Advice and support
- Academic Advice
- Health Issues
- Personal Matters
- Disabilities
- Counselling
- International Students
- Nightline
- More...

Career matters
- Careers Centre
- Part-time Jobs
- Internships and work experience
- My Careers Centre
- Careers A-Z
- Graduate Jobs
- Events
- More...

Computer and IT support
- New student computer accounts
- Connecting to the network
- Residences
- SaintMail
- PC Clinic
- Using Office365
- Printing
- Service status
- More...

Involve yourself
- Students' Association
- Athletic Union: clubs
- Music Centre
- Volunteering
- Laidlaw internship programme
- Admissions photo competition
- More...

Library
- Opening hours
- SAULCAT (catalogue) search
- SEEKER (cross search)
- A-Z Index
- Subject guides
- Reading lists
- More...

Money matters
- Paying your tuition and/or accommodation fees
- Financial support
- Bursaries and scholarships
- International students
- Student status confirmation letter
- Online shop
- Personal financial statement
- Buy printer credits
- More...

https://mysaint.st-andrews.ac.uk

www.st-andrews.ac.uk
My application

My application allows you to track the progress of an application that you have already submitted to St Andrews.

You do not have any current applications.

If you wish to start a new application to St Andrews, please select the relevant option.

I am applying for:

- an undergraduate degree such as the MA, BSc or MChem.
- a postgraduate taught degree such as the MLitt or the MSc.
- a postgraduate research programme such as the PhD.

Accommodation

Student Accommodation Returning Students online Application 2016-17

To accept your On-line Accommodation contract please log on using the link below. Returning students should receive an email advising them they have a contract during the afternoon of Monday 22 February 2016.
Student Accommodation Returning Students online Application 2016-17

To accept your On-line Accommodation contract please log on using the link below. Returning students should receive an email advising them they have a contract during the afternoon of Monday 22 February 2016.

Login to Accommodation Online
Student Accommodation Returning Students online Application 2016-17

To accept your On-line Accommodation contract please log on using the link below. Returning students should receive an email advising them they have a contract during the afternoon of Monday 22 February 2016.

Login to Accommodation Online
Other resources

- Study at St Andrews website: /study/pg/fees-and-funding/scholarships
- Careers Centre: /careers/postgraduate-study/funding/
- Money Matters: /pgstudents/money/
- School webpages
- External websites
  - British Council
  - Prospects
  - FindAPhD
Scholarships & Funding

pgscholarships@st-andrews.ac.uk
www.st-andrews.ac.uk/study/pg/fees-and-funding/scholarships/
Ask a question (FAQs)
@StAfunding
A St Andrews PhD
Where do PhDs go?

Dr. Bhavya Rao
Careers Adviser, Research
PhD researchers

The years you spend working toward your PhD should provide a great many opportunities to develop your CV along the way. This section of our website offers you guidance on how to approach these opportunities, what's available in the way of career support and development, and how to consider what comes next once you've written up your thesis.

It can help to think of your PhD studies as your first graduate job. Keep good office hours, present yourself professionally and keep in mind what you might do once you graduate. If you allow your PhD to be just an extension of your student days, you're setting yourself up to fail. Our Students pages will provide you with a wealth of careers advice, but some of the key areas specific to your PhD can be found in this section.

St Leonard's College

As a research postgraduate, you are part of the university's St Leonard's College, the central institution for all students enrolled on postgraduate study courses. The St Leonard's website contains additional links and information on the staff and administration behind the college.

Quick links

- [Career Planning for PhDs](#): ebook from the good people at jobs.ac.uk
- [An Academic Career](#): talks through the peaks and pitfalls of working in academia
- [Surviving a PhD -- Top 10 Tips](#): Dr Alex Hope's very sensible thoughts on the subject
- The Thesis Whisperer: an insightful veteran's blog on the rollercoaster of PhD study
Where next?

What about academia?

Alternates to academic careers
What do PhD graduates do?
What do researchers do?

Career Paths of AHRC funded PhD Students

Final Report

Early career progression of doctoral graduates 2013

Comparative analysis of two courses of action:
- Progression
- Comparison with matched cohort of students

Researcher career stories

Over 150 career stories from researchers:

Careers stories are personal narratives focused on the experiences and decisions that the story tellers found significant. They offer inspiration and insight into the lives and career decisions of the story tellers.

Career stories on film

Hear researchers talking about their career history and choices

Entrepreneurial researchers

See how researchers have used skills gained during doctoral training to develop careers as entrepreneurs

Mature researchers

A large proportion of researchers complete doctoral studies after gaining significant work experience
What about academia?
Non-academic roles
PhD Graduates (100 %)

Non-university research (industry, government etc.)

Early Career Research
Permanent Research Staff
Professor

~ Time
PhD Graduates (100%)

- Non-university research (industry, government, etc.)

Early Career Research

Permanent Research Staff

~ Time

Non-academic roles

53%

47%

30%
PhD Graduates (100%)

Non-academic roles

Non-university research (industry, government etc.)

Early Career Research

53%

47%

30%

17%
Non-academic roles

Non-university research (industry, government etc.)

“The Scientific Century”, Royal Society 2010
Alternates to Academia

Leveraging your academic experience
Alternates to Academic Careers

“Academic-related” career options:

- Academic publishing
- Funding bodies
  - [www.topcareer.jobs]

Learned Societies

- The Historical Association
- British Philosophical Association
Alternates to Academic Careers

“Academic-related” career options:

- Academic support
  - [jobs.ac.uk, Professional/Managerial/Support]
- Knowledge Exchange
  - [AURIL]
  - [ktp.innovateuk.org]
- Intellectual Property
Alternates to Academic Careers

“Academic-related” career options:

- Consultancy
  - [consultancyregister.com]

- Teaching
  - [TeachFirst]
  - [researchersinschools.org]

- Think Tanks
The illustrated guide to a Ph.D.

Matt Might
matt.might.net
Keep pushing
6 St Mary’s Place, KY16 9UY
Opposite the Student Association
24 on the Campus Map
www.st-andrews.ac.uk/careers
Who?

• 16 Scottish HEIs

• 1,600 doctoral researchers

• Supporter organisations in arts, culture, heritage and beyond

• Collaborating to deliver the best doctoral training for ALL PhDs in arts & humanities
You?
AHRC Doctoral Training Partnership

“To support excellent students in world-class research training environments”
AHRC funding offers...

• Future Research Leaders: 3-year personal and professional development programme

• Flexible funding to support individual training needs – up to 6 additional months’ funding

• Access to AHRC-funded opportunities
Future Research Leaders
Student Development Funding

- Research trips overseas
- Skills training: film-making, specialist photography, zooarcheology
- SGSAH Visiting Researcher scheme

*Time* | *Flexibility* | *Costs*
What else?

- **Summer School**: lectures, workshops, impact showcase
- **Funding**: for collaborative training designed and delivered by you
- **Internships and doctoral artist-in-residencies**: use your research skills in new contexts
- **Training events**: creative, innovative, practical, theoretical, challenging, relevant
Collaborative training

• 21st Century Book Historian: archives, bibliography, reading
• Curating Materiality: Feminism and Contemporary Art History
• Interrogating the Revival of Empire in Humanities Research
• The Classical Body Split Open: Corporal Obscenity in Antiquity
Networking
Collaboration
What do students say?

“The whole thing was **brilliant** and **extremely useful**”

*attendee at training in feminism and art history*

“**Fantastic** to speak to different researchers from **all over Scotland**”

*exhibitor at SGSAH doctoral impact showcase*
Apply

“If you are committed, have a really excellent project, and listen to the advice of your supervisors, you can be successful with the SGSAH.”

Katy, AHRC Cohort 2016