



INNOVATION
ZONES

NNNI
NATIONAL MUSEUMS NI



Arts and
Humanities
Research Council

**AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Partnership (CDP) studentship with National Museums NI
Conflict and Creativity – Evaluating the potential of the Ulster Museum’s *Troubles and Beyond*
collection in fostering creative thinking skills in young people.**

Queen’s University Belfast [‘Innovation Zones’](#) (School of Social Sciences, Education and Social Work), in partnership with National Museums NI, invites applications from suitably qualified applicants for a Collaborative Doctoral Partnership (CDP) studentship, funded by the UK Arts and Humanities Research Council ([Collaborative Doctoral Partnerships \(CDP\) scheme](#)), to conduct research leading to a PhD on the theme of: Conflict and Creativity – Evaluating the potential of the Ulster Museum’s *Troubles and Beyond* collection in fostering creative thinking skills in young people.

Start Date: 1st October 2024

Application Deadline: 16th May 2024 at 5pm

Applications received after this date cannot be considered. Candidates will be notified of the outcome of their application by the end of day on the 22nd May 2024.

Interviews will take place on **29th May**. All interviews will be **online**.

This project will be jointly supervised by [Dr Liam O’Hare](#) (Director Innovation Zones, Queen’s University Belfast) and Louise Rice (Education Manager, National Museums NI) and the student will be expected to spend time at both Queen’s University Belfast and at National Museums NI, and be part of a wider cohort of CDP funded students across the UK.

The studentship can be studied either full time (4 years) or part time.

We encourage the widest range of potential students to study for this CDP studentship and are committed to welcoming students from different backgrounds to apply. We particularly welcome applications from minority ethnic backgrounds as they are currently underrepresented at this level in this area.

Students should have a Master’s Degree in a relevant subject or can demonstrate equivalent experience in a professional setting.

The studentship is open to both home and international applicants.

Project overview

The project aims to investigate ways in which museums operating in divided societies can use their collections to support the development of creativity and open-mindedness in young people. The research will focus on ways in which young people aged 11-14 from across different religious, ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds from non-integrated schools engage with the Ulster Museum’s *Troubles and Beyond* and *Troubles Art* collections. It seeks to address the gap in understanding around how museum education can be designed to influence the development of the skills that are likely to lead to greater levels of social cohesion and peacebuilding.

Research activity will include the implementation of a pilot study in communities linked to the [‘Innovation Zones’](#), which will be evaluated to assess its effectiveness in developing creative skills and open-mindedness in the young participants from disadvantaged backgrounds. The findings of the research will contribute to the development of the Ulster Museum’s *Troubles*-related education programmes, and have a direct impact on how National Museums NI measures the success of their wider schools programme. Ultimately, the theoretical and practical learning from this research could have an international impact on how museums in areas of conflict, or post-conflict can harness the potential of their collections to have a positive impact on children and young people.

Some Examples of **Research Questions**:

1. Can a research-informed museum learning programme be implemented well, i.e., with fidelity, engagement, and quality of delivery to young people from disadvantaged circumstances and ethnic minority status?
2. Does the emergent museum learning programme improve creativity and open-mindedness in participants and is this influenced by disadvantage and ethnic minority status?
3. Are there any unforeseen positive or negative effects of the programme for the museum, pupils and teachers?

Application procedure

Candidates should submit an online Queen's University Belfast PhD application form (see procedure below), attaching a statement. The statement should outline the applicant's:

- Academic qualifications and/ or relevant professional experience and expertise (max 250 words)
- Motivation to pursue this Collaborative Doctoral Partnership (max 350 words)
- A provisional outline of a research topic within the thematic parameters given above. The outline should set out indicative aims and objectives, relevant literature, research questions, and proposed methods, showing how you will develop an original PhD project based around the theme described above (max 850 words)

Candidates must also arrange for names, role and email addresses for two referees at the bottom, of the application. If possible, applicants should provide at least one academic referee.

Research with National Museums NI

This research studentship is one allocated to Queen's University Belfast by the AHRC to support the work of National Museums NI. Given the site-specific nature of the PhD, the successful student will be expected to spend a significant proportion of their time carrying out research and gaining relevant experience at National Museums NI as part of the studentship.

Details of Award

CDP doctoral training grants fund full-time studentships for 4 years or part-time equivalent up to a maximum of 8 years.

The award pays tuition fees up to the value of the full-time home UKRI rate for PhD degrees. **Research Councils UK Indicative Fee Level for 2023/2024 is £4,786.**

The award pays full maintenance for all students both home and international students. The UKRI National Minimum **Doctoral Stipend for 2023/2024 is £19,237**, plus a CDP maintenance payment of £600/year.

The student is eligible to receive an additional travel and related expenses grant during the course of the project courtesy of National Museums NI worth up to £2,000 per year for 4 years.

The successful candidate will be eligible to participate in events organised for all Collaborative Doctoral Partnership students who are registered with different universities and studying with cultural and heritage organisations across the UK.

Eligibility

- This studentship is open to both home and international applicants.
- International students are eligible to receive the full award for maintenance as are home students. To increase access to international candidates, Queen's University Belfast has agreed to waive the difference between the UK fee and the international fee for this project.
- We encourage the widest range of potential students to study for this CDP studentship and are committed to welcoming students from different backgrounds to apply. We particularly welcome applications from minority ethnic backgrounds as they are currently underrepresented at this level in this area.
- Applicants should ideally have or expect to receive a relevant Masters-level qualification in a relevant subject such as education or history, or be able to demonstrate equivalent experience in the cultural and/or education sector e.g. galleries, museums, museum education, teaching.
- Applicants must be able to demonstrate an interest in the museum sector and potential and enthusiasm for developing skills more widely in related areas.
- As a collaborative award, students will be expected to spend time at both the University and National Museums NI.

NB. All applicants must meet UKRI terms and conditions for funding. See:

<https://www.ukri.org/funding/information-for-award-holders/grant-terms-and-conditions/>

Project details and how to apply

For more information and how to apply visit <https://www.qub.ac.uk/schools/ssesw/study/postgraduate-research/HowtoApply/>

Please select the following options when prompted:

- Postgraduate Research
- Social Sciences, Education and Social Work;
- Education
- Education (Doctor of Philosophy)
- Add title
- Add Dr Liam O'Hare as primary supervisor
- Upload proposal as outlined above with two named referees all in one document
- Please highlight in additional information that this is a proposal to "AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Partnership (CDP) studentship with National Museums NI"

Informal enquiries

To submit questions about the project and funding, contact: cdp@nationalmuseumsni.org