

Fully Funded PhD Opportunity in Tourism / Cultural Heritage / World Heritage

Applications are invited for a studentship based at the University of Birmingham's Ironbridge International Institute for Cultural Heritage. The studentship is funded through the Arts and Humanities Research Council in collaboration with the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust and UNESCO World Heritage Centre. It will commence October 1st 2015.

The studentship will examine the relationships that World Heritage Sites share with tourists and in particular how tourists, from increasingly diverse cultural backgrounds, experience the cultural landscape of Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site and the ways in which its 'World Heritage-ness' is consumed, communicated and enacted

This is one of four projects designed to provide the successful student with a combination of both academic training of the highest quality and training through direct experience of working with the heritage sector.

The studentship will fall under the overall guidance of Professor Mike Robinson, Chair of Cultural Heritage at the University of Birmingham, and will fit with other coordinated PhD students undertaking pioneering research on the meanings and values of World Heritage, focusing on the Ironbridge Gorge in Shropshire, and with the support of the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre.

The student will be based at the University of Birmingham but will be expected to spend most of their second year of fieldwork at Ironbridge Gorge some 40 miles from the University of Birmingham campus. In year three, the student will divide their time between Birmingham and Ironbridge as appropriate, while working on the analysis of their collected data, following up their research, continuing to work alongside the Institute's other PhD students, academics and distinguished Visiting Fellows, and writing up their work. It is also during this final year that the student will assist in organising and participating in a workshop with UNESCO to discuss the theme of communicating World Heritage and configurations of value to communities, and also feedback their results and recommendations directly to the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust.

Throughout the project, the student will benefit from working alongside other PhDs working on Ironbridge and World Heritage, representing a unique opportunity to undertake Doctoral Research in this field as part of a team of researchers. They have access to real opportunities for knowledge exchange and mutual engagement with different working practices thanks to the Institute's collaboration with the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust and UNESCO World Heritage.

Value of Award

The studentship will cover tuition fees at full-time UK rates, along with a maintenance stipend of £13,863/year and a £1,000/year bursary for travel and other research expenses.

Eligibility Criteria

Please note that only students who are UK residents are eligible to receive the annual stipend as per AHRC rules, and EU students are eligible to receive a fees-only studentship. Non-UK/EU students are not eligible under this scheme; complete rules on AHRC PhD studentship eligibility can be found on their website:

- AHRC Eligibility Guidance is available at <http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/Funding-Opportunities/Documents/Guide%20to%20Student%20Eligibility.pdf>

How to Apply

In order to apply for one of the studentships please contact Dr John Carman in the first instance - j.carman@bham.ac.uk. Please quote 'AHRC CDA Tourism Heritage Studentship'.