

Awards from the Research Scholarships Scheme, 2015/16

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To: Heads of Wales' Higher Education Institutions, Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol Advisory Group, Institutional Coordinators of Welsh Medium Provision

Respond by: No response required.

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This circular presents the Coleg's decisions on doctoral scholarships to be funded through the Research Scholarships Scheme to start in 2015/16.

[This document is also available on the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol website](#)

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Background

1. This circular confirms the doctoral scholarships to be funded by the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol [the Coleg] from 2015/16.
2. Applications to the Research Scholarships Scheme were invited in a circular that was sent to institutions on 29 September 2014 (Ref 14/04), with a closing date of 12 January. The applications were considered on 26 February 2015 by three members of the Coleg's Grants Panel, namely Dr Alison Allan, Emeritus Professor Ceri Davies, and Dr Iolo ap Gwynn.
3. The Coleg's Board of Director's decision is final.
4. Institutions may receive feedback on unsuccessful applications by contacting the Coleg via email. The Coleg will endeavour to reply to queries as soon as possible.

Research Scholarships Scheme

5. In the circular for 2015/16 it was noted that up to ten Research Scholarships would be awarded (clause 32), based on the:
 - (i) academic excellence of the applicant,
 - (ii) subject / originality of the proposed research project,
 - (iii) experience and record of the academic school / department where the research will be supervised, and
 - (iv) the award / award-holder's potential contribution to realising the Coleg's strategic aims.
6. The circular also noted (clause 33) that the Coleg would consider applications from academic schools / departments that had not yet identified a suitable award-holder for a scholarship. In such applications scholarships would be awarded based on the criteria outlined in 32 (ii), (iii) and (iv), and the awarded scholarship would have to be openly advertised in the press.

7. A total of 17 applications for doctoral research proposals to be funded through the Research Scholarships Scheme were received this year. The advisory panel welcomed the fact that all the applications were of a very high standard, and that a number of the applicants showed great potential and / or that the proposed research projects were interesting and exciting. Each application was scored in accordance with the criteria and the opinions of panel members on each individual application were discussed before careful consideration was given to the wider strategic position within the subjects represented in relation to capacity, provision and progression, and the value of the Coleg's investment
8. Scholarships to be funded by the Coleg starting in 2015/16 are listed in **Appendix A**. Some Scholarships were supported (noted with **) subject to resolving some specific issues and questions raised by the panel (mainly in relation to the linguistic support available for holders to be able to complete their research and submit their doctoral theses in Welsh). The Coleg also reserves the right to ask for opinion and advice from subject specialists on any award BEFORE agreeing to the funding.
9. Each award will be expected to commence in the autumn of 2015.
10. All scholarships will be funded on the basis of the general conditions noted in the circular inviting applications.

Next steps

11. In the case of applications with candidates already identified, institutions will be expected to notify them as soon as possible of their success and to confirm to the Coleg before **15 June 2015** that they accept the scholarship.
12. In applications where candidates have not been identified, successful institutions will be required to follow an open and competitive process to appoint a qualified and suitable individual to the scholarship. Such a process must be completed and the scholarship holder must be appointed before **1 July 2015**. The Coleg will wish to see a draft of the advertisement for each empty

scholarship before they are advertised. Draft advertisements should be sent to the Coleg for approval, for the attention of Dr Dylan Phillips (d.phillips@colegcymraeg.ac.uk).

13. The institutions will be responsible for filling the empty scholarships and for appointing qualified and suitable applicants. **If empty scholarships are not filled within the timetable outlined above (12), the award will be revoked.**
14. Each appointment to an empty scholarship will be subject to completing the necessary nomination form and receiving the Coleg's approval before the scholarship can be offered formally to the applicant. The nomination form must be submitted to the Coleg by **17 July 2015**.
15. In addition to the ten scholarships listed in Appendix A, the advisory panel has also identified a limited number of reserve scholarships (listed in **Appendix B**). In the case of any scholarships with a candidate that has not been confirmed by 15 June (see 11 above), or an empty scholarship that has not been filled by 1 July (see 12 above), the funding will go instead to the reserve-list scholarships in the order they have been listed.
16. The Coleg will contact relevant institutions with reserve scholarships in order to explain this process in greater detail and to ask them to inform the candidates identified in the reserve scholarships of the situation. If any of the scholarships listed in Appendix A were to be revoked, the Coleg will contact the institutions with reserve scholarships and ask them to confirm by **31 July 2015** that the candidate has accepted the scholarship.
17. Institutions will not be allowed to elect a reserve scholarship ahead or instead of one of the scholarships listed in Appendix A unless that scholarship has been revoked. Priority will be given to scholarships listed in Appendix A over those on the reserve list.

18. The Coleg will not allow any exceptions to the timetable outlined above. If the appointment and nomination processes have not been successfully completed within the above timetable, the award will be revoked.

19. Having received confirmation from the institutions that candidates accept the scholarships (in accordance with the process outlined above), the Coleg will contact each award-holder to congratulate them and invite them to attend a special induction event at Carmarthen on **11 September 2015** to introduce them to the Coleg and the scheme conditions. This event will be compulsory.

APPENDIX A

Discipline / Subject	Candidate	Institution
Explore the possibilities of implantating geomorphological understanding within Wales' geographical conservation heritage.	Sioned Llywelyn	Aberystwyth University
The use of the Welsh language in the workplace.	(no candidate)	Bangor University
Examine the pedagogical effectiveness of teaching Welsh to second language learners in schools and Welsh Centres for Adults.	Jack Pulman-Slater	Cardiff University
The Welsh language in further education.	Laura Beth Davies	Cardiff University
Political Leadership and Devolution: A Comparative Study of the Presedential trend in Wales and Scotland.	Aled Morgan Hughes	Cardiff University
3-D modeling of the sun's corona.	Ffion Alys Whitehouse	Aberystwyth University
Social use of the Welsh language in Gwynedd and Anglesey concentrating specifically on the factors affecting school pupils' motivation for choosing higher education through the medium of Welsh.	Sioned Williams	Bangor University
Explore the effectiveness of new non-invasive treatments for Obstructive sleep apnea (OSA).	Claire Griffith-Mcgeever	Bangor University
The nature of language impairment in dementia focusing specifically on Welsh speakers.	Samuel Kyle Jones	Swansea University
** Exploring discourses and legacies of the Quarry Workers and Friction Dynamics strikes in North Wales	Emma Sara Hughes	Bangor University

APPENDIX B – reserve list

Discipline / Subject	Candidate	Institution
From Liberalism to Nationalism: Women and Political Change in Wales c. 1910-1925.	Anys Myfanwy Wood	Cardiff University

The use of positrons in Physics: Room temperature positrons moderator; and the use of resistive cooling when collecting positrons.	(no candidate)	Swansea University
What is the poet's relationship with his audience and does this relationship influence the poet's voice for better or worse?	Aneirin Karadog	Swansea University