

## **Awards from the Research Scholarships Scheme, 2016/17**

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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 2016/17.

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## **Awards from the Research Scholarships Scheme, 2016/17**

### **Background**

1. This circular confirms the doctoral scholarships to be funded by the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol [the Coleg] from 2016/17.
2. Applications to the Research Scholarships Scheme were invited in a circular that was sent to institutions on 3 December 2015 (Ref 15/02), with a closing date of 1 February. The applications were considered on 21 March 2016 by three members of the Coleg's Grants Panel, namely Professor Jane Aaron, Professor Noel Lloyd and Dr Hefin Jones.
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.

### **Research Scholarships Scheme**

5. In the circular for 2016/17 it was noted that up to ten Research Scholarships would be awarded (clause 34), 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 35) 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 34 (ii), (iii) and (iv), and the awarded scholarship would have to be openly advertised in the press.

7. A total of 18 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 2016/17 are listed in **Appendix A**. One Scholarship was supported (noted with \*\*) subject to resolving some specific issues and questions raised by the panel. 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 2016.
  
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 **16 May 2016** 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 2016**. 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](mailto: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 **15 July 2016**.
15. In addition to the ten scholarships listed in Appendix A, the advisory panel has also identified a limited number of reserve scholarships. In the case of any scholarships with a candidate that has not been confirmed by 16 May (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 inform them which scholarships are on the list and in what order, and to ask them to inform the candidates 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 **29 July 2016** 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 **16 September 2016** to introduce them to the Coleg and the scheme conditions. This event will be compulsory.

## APPENDIX A

Discipline / Subject	Candidate	Institution
Chwilota am ensymau hydrolytic a chemegion gwrthfotig ymysg y ffyngau anaerobig: Tarddiad esblygiadol a photensial biotechnolegol	Rebeca Evans	Aberyswyth University
Ymchwil i waddol tocsig cemegau a gyflwynir i'r pridd gan <i>Rhododendron ponticum</i>	Gruffydd Lloyd Jones	Aberyswyth University
Gweithiau JR Jones: ymchwilio i themâu allweddol a tharddiad ei syniadau	(No candidate)	Cardiff University
Hanes y Cymry a'r Casia mewn Alawon – Ymchwiliad Creadigol a Rhyngddiwylliannol	Gareth Bonello	The University of South Wales
Ysgrifennu Creadigol Ymarfer-fel-Ymchwil: Archwilio methodoleg addasu o'r newydd, sef, yn gyntaf addasu albwm cerddorol yn gyfres o straeon byrion ar ffurf nofel gyfansawdd, ac yna addasu'r rhain yn naratif glasurol gyflawn ar ffurf drama lwyfan.	Wyn Mason	Swansea University
Astudiaeth o amrywiadau a newidiadau ieithyddol yn y Gymru gyfoes, ynghyd ag ymagweddau tuag atynt ymhlith siaradwyr.	Elain Jones	Cardiff University
Astudiaeth o'r berthynas rhwng ymgysylltiad pobl ifainc yn eu harddegau â'r ysgol, gwaharddiad ohoni, ac ymddygiad troseddol.	Heddwen Lleucu Daniel	Aberystwyth University
Deall sut mae plant ifanc yn ymateb i'r profiad o glywed a darllen barddoniaeth a darganfod beth yw'r cyswllt rhwng y ddau brofiad. Hefyd, edrych ar sut y gallwn ddefnyddio ffurfiau barddonol i wella dysgu mewn plant ifanc.	(No candidate)	Bangor University
Canfod beth yw'r rhwystrau rhag i siaradwyr amharod y Gymraeg fod yn ddefnyddwyr y Gymraeg ac adnabod dulliau a fydd yn sicrhau bod siaradwyr amharod yn troi'n ddefnyddwyr y Gymraeg.	(No candidate)	Bangor University
** Adnabod mecanweithiau moleciwlar ghrelin sy'n gyfrifol am ei effeithiau amddiffynnol yng nghlefyd Parkinson: rôl mewn hunansiant.	Luke Roberts	Swansea University