

Guidance for NBC applicants uploading an application to the Ulster PhD admissions system.

The Guidance to NBC is here: [Guidance Notes for Staff and Applicants](#)

Applications to NBC at Ulster will be assessed first for eligibility and then against the criteria for NBC awards. It is important that the proposal addresses NBC requirements.

Where to apply

Applicants to NBC at Ulster should make an online application at this link - [Online Application to Ulster University](#).

Funding - to apply for an NBC studentship insert **NBC22** in response to the question "If you will be self-funded or are in receipt of a private scholarship then please provide further information here" on the Funding Details section of the online application. (All applicants)

PHD Research Proposal (all applicants)

Applicants should then complete the proposal on the Ulster online form with awareness of the NBC criteria in [Guidance Notes for Staff and Applicants](#)

- Begin by stating a **Primary AHRC Subject Area**, it must be a subject available at Ulster University (1 line)
- Indicate if your proposal is **Interdisciplinary (I line)**
- If relevant, list **PUBLICATIONS, EXHIBITIONS, COMMISSIONS, etc.** (Max 200 words)

Proposed Thesis Title (1 line) (all applicants)

Proposal (all applicants)- Using the information and headings in NBC nomination Form Part 1 section 5a as a guide, draft a proposal. There is further detail guidance at page 14 of [Guidance Notes for Staff and Applicants](#) The full nomination form is completed at a later stage (stage 2) but can be viewed here: <http://www.northernbridge.ac.uk/studentships/theopenstudentshipcompetition/>

1. **Research Proposal and Case for Support** A 100-word summary of the proposal should be written in such a way as to be accessible to a reader who may not be a subject specialist. This summary will be provided to the AHRC should the nomination be successful.
2. **Research Proposal 750 word not** including bibliography or footnotes.
Address these headings:
 - research question ,
 - research context
 - research methods

- **Feasibility / Viability** - *demonstrate that the project is feasible or viable with the allotted timeframe (up to three and a half years of full-time funded study or up to seven years of part-time funded study).*

See the NBC guidance to staff and applicants page 15-16: [Guidance Notes for Staff and Applicants](#) Use brief citation in text (e.g. *Smith, 1990*)..

Upload a separate list of references (not counted in the 750 words) - no more than 1 page.

Other information not counted in then 750-word proposal

Resources and Facilities Please provide details of the resources and facilities you expect to use, including details of any high-cost equipment, fieldwork, training, etc. (*Maximum 100 words*) (all applicants)

For standard awards only:

1. **How have your prior qualifications and/or professional experience equipped you for doctoral study in terms of the research skills and subject knowledge needed to undertake this project?**
(*Maximum 100 words*)

For Collaborative Awards only :

1. **Name of Collaborative non HEI organisation/ Name of potential non HEI supervisor (if known)**
2. **How have your prior qualifications and/or professional experience equipped you for a Collaborative Award in terms of research skills, subject knowledge, and capacity for collaborative working? What benefits will accrue to you and the partner organisation as a result of your collaboration?**
(*Maximum 300 words*)

State why your project is particularly suited to the Northern Bridge Consortium
(*Maximum 100 words*) (all applicants)

Project Feasibility and the Pandemic (*Maximum 150 words*) **Please indicate how you might adjust your plans if they would be impacted by current/future restrictions related to the pandemic. Please outline how you would address this across your studentship.** (All applicants)

*Proposals that involve **Creative Practice** only.* There is additional information in the NBC guidance for **Creative Practice** and for **Student-Led Collaborative Project** on pages 18- 20: [Guidance Notes for Staff and Applicants](#)

1. Creative Practice Studentship applicants **only** are required to supply a URL to a portfolio of outputs for contextual information.
2. **Please explain more fully how your practice is critical to the completion of your research project; how it will help you address your research**

questions and support your methodologies?

(Maximum 300 words)

The Project's Suitability to the NBCDTP (all applicants)

- Applicants should indicate name of **prospective supervisors** at Ulster (if known). Applicants should consider the expertise of the proposed supervisors, the resources available within the NBCDTP universities, specific training provision, and the potential relevance of external strategic partners.
- Applicants are encouraged to consider any potential placement opportunities available through non-HE organisations. They should use this section to indicate if they have already established whether their studentship will include a placement. However, **nominees who have not secured a placement will not be penalised.**

The initial stage 1 application in January to Ulster does **not** need your full transcripts or references but you must be prepared and able to produce them by 5 February if you are successful at stage 1 and are to be nominated by Ulster

NBC is very competitive. Applicants may apply to other studentship opportunities. Applicants can only apply once to any NBC university in the standard and student led CDA routes.