

# Meet Our Application Friends



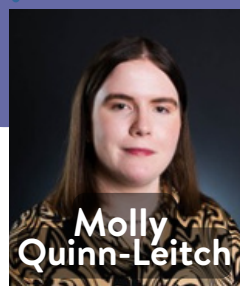
Shakshi is an AHRC funded PhD candidate at Queen's University Belfast. Her thesis titled 'Places of Protest' lies at the intersection of translation studies and human geography, investigating the translation of place through feminist protests.

Shakshi recently presented at the Conference of Irish Geographers, International Postgraduate Conference in Translation and Interpreting, and participated in the NIDA Centre for Advanced Research in Translation summer school. In the past year, she has completed fieldwork in Manchester, UK and Los Angeles, USA, and completed a research placement at the Huntington Library in California.

Having navigated the doctoral journey as an international student, she is passionate about helping applicants approach the process with confidence and clarity.

Anurag is undertaking his AHRC-funded doctoral research part-time while working as a paralegal in a busy Belfast firm. His research explores legislative drafting in the UK: how it is carried out, what it can tell us about statutory interpretation and what it can tell us about the nature of law itself. He applied for the PhD funding award in late 2019, after an involved process of drafting the application. This began with contacting his chosen supervisors to see if they had capacity to take him on as a potential supervisee and if they wanted to supervise his research. After they had agreed, the application itself had to be drafted to strict limits and stricter deadlines. After several rounds of edits and very constructive feedback, the application was submitted. In May 2020 (while furloughed and halfway through binge-watching Schitt's Creek) Anurag received his award letter.

Anurag is particularly interested to hear from prospective applicants with any legal research proposals, because, as he was told when he was applying: lawyers and linguists tend to have the most jargon-heavy applications.

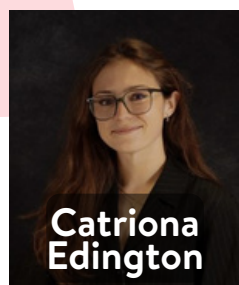
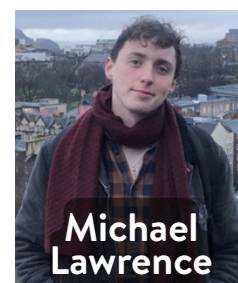


Molly Quinn-Leitch is a PhD student at Queen's within the School of Arts, English and Languages. Her thesis project, which focuses on the cultural history of Shakespeare in Northern Ireland, is supported and funded by the AHRC.

Molly also completed her BA and MA degrees at Queen's and, so, is knowledgeable in Queen's application processes and policies at all degree levels. Molly has valuable experience of applying for PhD programmes, positions and funding through the Queen's portal and successfully applied for the [now closed] AHRC Northern Bridge competition in 2022. She understands how to draft, plan and compose a successful PhD application and a unique, engaging proposal which addresses a critical gap and stands out to assessment panels.

My name's Michael Lawrence, and I started my PhD in Queen's University Belfast in History in 2021, looking into male homosexuality and Irish migration between the 1880s and the 1960s. I wrote my application while completing my Masters programme in Trinity College Dublin, and knew that I wanted to return to Belfast to work with a particular expert (who is now my supervisor). Fortunately, I had a clear idea for what I wanted to do, and my supervisor provided information and feedback to strengthen my application.

The PhD allowed me so many opportunities for training and travel, and so I always encourage potential or new PhD students to take a considered approach to the training and research environment aspect of their applications.



My PhD compares the fertility medicine of humans and animals in early modern England.

I tend to call my project a history of medicine, but it definitely fits into medical humanities as I try and blend a series of interests in social histories of medicine, science, gender and material culture, with considerations of human-animal relations, folklore and reproductive biosciences. Early modern England is an exciting context, as it was a period of great change and discovery; one where biomedical understandings and the institutions of veterinary medicine and medicine were developed. Projects are so personal, and I enjoy combining a spectrum of my various interests and passions in one place.

I came straight to the PhD aged 22 from a traditional BA straight to MA pathway, so I've tried to embrace opportunities whilst funded by the AHRC to develop myself as a person, as well as work out the plans for the future. I've learnt a lot from new connections and the diverse experiences of others. Outside of the office, I am a keen mountain runner with several NI and one ROI vests (so far)...

I'm in my second year of a PhD, researching the role theatre can play in the resettlement of military veterans. I came to this as I completed a Masters in Conflict Transformation and Social Justice at Queen's and am also an army veteran.

Researching and writing my application took me a fair amount of time, not always very productive time. The most useful part was working with my (now) supervisor who was able to help with good references and give feedback on early drafts. Eventually I managed to produce a focussed application.

Since getting funding I've been able to take advantage of lots of training opportunities to improve my research. Working with a supervisor has also been a great learning experience. I'm currently in the US on a fellowship at the Library of Congress funded by AHRC which is an amazing opportunity.

