

MEITS PhD studentship

A fully-funded 3-year PhD studentship is available at Queen's University Belfast in conjunction with the research project 'Multilingualism: Empowering Individuals, Transforming Societies (MEITS)', funded by the AHRC under the Open World Research Initiative to promote Modern Languages in the UK.

The project is led by the University of Cambridge (PI Wendy Ayres-Bennett), and comprises a team of 13 other Co-Is, 14 Post-doctoral researchers and 6 PhD students who will be based at the University of Cambridge and at the three partner universities, Edinburgh, Nottingham and Queen's Belfast.

MEITS is an exciting multidisciplinary project, which includes 6 research strands which will explore multilingualism from a range of perspectives. We are seeking to recruit a PhD candidate who will work on Strand 3: 'Sociolinguistic Perspectives on Multilingualism: Identity, Diversity and Social Cohesion'. The project has a number of key non-HEI partners and there is an important policy and public engagement dimension to the work. We expect candidates for the studentship to be open to exploring and developing new interdisciplinary approaches and, if necessary, to learn a new language. Here follow further details of the studentship:

This doctoral studentship is concerned with language and perceptions of identity amongst Irish speakers. It will focus on the role of Raidió na Gaeltachta in the maintenance and revitalisation of Irish, and will consider how it has given voice and brought cohesion to native Irish-speaking communities, how it has facilitated contact between these communities, and how it has played a crucial role in foregrounding regional varieties. The project will include research on the Raidió na Gaeltachta archive hosted through an internship at the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum. It may also include a comparative dimension on other radio outlets which serve Irish-speaking communities in urban environments. A high level of fluency in Irish is essential to conduct further work in the field, where necessary.

The studentship will start in November 2016 (or as soon as possible thereafter) and will cover full fees. It will also include an annual maintenance stipend for three years to RCUK minimum level (£14,296 per annum). It will be supervised by Prof Mícheál Ó Mainnín and Prof Janice Carruthers. For further information about the studentship, please contact Prof Ó Mainnín (m.omainnin@qub.ac.uk). Further information about the project can be obtained from Professor Wendy Ayres-Bennett (wmb1001@cam.ac.uk).

Applicants for the studentship should have:

1. A First or Upper-Second (2.i) class first degree in a relevant discipline (Irish language and literature or a cognate degree). (A postgraduate master's degree or experience of writing a substantial dissertation at BA level will be an advantage.)
2. Excellent communication and organisational skills and the ability to work as part of a multidisciplinary research team;
3. The standing needed to meet the graduate admissions entrance requirements of Queen's University.

Applications for the studentships should be made via the Queen's University Student Portal at: <http://www.qub.ac.uk/home/StudyatQueens/PostgraduateStudies/StudyingatQueens/Howtoapply/>

Important: applicants should tick "I am responding to an advert" then enter "MEITS" in the box provided.

Please also send your CV and a supporting statement at the same time by email to m.omainnin@qub.ac.uk

The deadline for applications is 4.00pm on Friday 30 September 2016.