

## **Overview of Phd in Arts Management and Cultural Policy**

Within the field of arts management and cultural policy, the School of Arts, English and Languages is concerned with current debates affecting:

- Intersections of public policy, cultural policy, management and creative practice
- Issues of equality and diversity in cultural policy, cultural management and cultural production
- Studies engaging with cultural labour and the role of the artist in multiple artforms
- Investigations in arts and cultural leadership, management and entrepreneurship, particularly in intersections with nonprofit, social enterprise and creative industries research
- The design and delivery of cultural policy and the interpretation of these processes by arts managers and policy makers
- Investigations in ethics, sustainability, governance and decision-making broadly in the arts and cultural/creative industries
- The impact of new technologies on arts management and cultural policymaking
- Considerations of impact, value and evidence in cultural policy and arts management  
Access, participation and audience development in the arts

The School welcomes applications for research, which is underpinned by empirical and/or theoretical methodologies. We are also interested in action-research methods as well as those methods that are stakeholder engaged and participatory. We have a strong commitment to the development of interdisciplinary approaches that take account of culture, policy and management as historical and social processes. More details of our research areas are available below.

### **Entry Requirements:**

Candidates should normally have or be expecting an upper second or first class degree in any related discipline. We also expect a Master's degree or equivalent. We do also welcome applications from mature students with substantial research experience.

We also expect:

- An individual with motivation and initiative
- A mature and independent attitude to research
- Commitment to taking part in a community of scholars
- An open attitude to the development of one's own research
- Generous and constructive criticism of the work of others
- An understanding of Ethics in research
- Willingness to present working papers in School of Arts Seminars and national and international conferences

### **PhD Supervisor**

The School provides an opportunity for students to create a unique programme of study tailored to their needs within a broader framework of expectations. These cover: theory, history, and methods, as well as writing and presentation workshops.

The role of the supervisor is to offer advice and guide the student on developing their programme of study towards a successful and timely completion of the thesis. In early stages, this process is likely to be more prescriptive and directive with more advisory and dialogical approaches taken as the PhD student develops their expertise.

The PhD student takes responsibility for project 'management'. This involves taking notes and agreeing agendas for meetings as well as maintaining and monitoring a long-term plan for regular discussion with the supervisor.

The PhD student and supervisor work as a team but it is the student who is responsible for keeping their work on track. The focus of this relationship is shaping the research project, issues of analysis and focus, the writing project and developing a clear timetable. The supervisor will introduce the student to academic life, including appropriate contacts and development opportunities (including additional courses) that will assist with the progression of the thesis. The School will actively encourage the PhD student to take part in conferences and publish research, but only as in line with their current research project.

## **Research Areas**

This list is not exhaustive but shows the School's interest in the social, historical and political processes involved in making, managing, and developing policy for the arts and culture.

- Intersections of policy, cultural policy, management and creative practice
- Issues of equality and diversity in cultural policy, cultural management and cultural production
- Studies engaging with cultural labour and the role of the artist in multiple artforms
- Investigations in arts and cultural leadership, management and entrepreneurship, particularly in intersections with nonprofit, social enterprise and creative industries research
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- Access, participation and audience development in the arts

### **Information on how to apply:**

**For any prospective PhD student, it is very important that you contact us before you apply.**

For further information about the overall programme, supports for students and how to apply please visit:  
<http://www.qub.ac.uk/sites/PostgraduateCentre/PostgraduateInformation/ProspectivePostgraduateResearchStudents/>

Completing a PhD is a demanding endeavour. It requires excellent abilities in personal organisation and time management. Before applying, it is advised that you

first consider whether you have the time, motivation, dedication, and self-discipline to work independently at advanced level for three to four years.

It is also important that you have a clear idea of why you wish to do a PhD and how you intend to use it after completion. Completion of a PhD is a valuable asset in a number of careers, for example in pursuing an academic career, or a career in the cultural or creative sector, or in cultural policymaking.

### **Your research topic**

It is essential that you have a clearly conceived idea of the topic you wish to research, as demonstrated in your research proposal. Your proposal should convince the School of Arts, English and Languages that you are aware of the field of study, and the key questions in it, and what contribution your proposed research will make. While you can revise the proposal as you develop your research, the following are needed for consideration: a clear indication that you have thought out and planned your ideas and that we have the appropriate expertise to supervise your work.

The PhD process is about a match between student and supervisor as well. As a result, your proposal should identify which member of staff seems to connect with the research area you propose to undertake. As PhD research is a commitment of time and energy, you should demonstrate a strong interest in your proposed topic.

### **Availability of supervision**

Before applying, please review our research interests in Arts Management and Cultural Policy and make sure that your research topic falls within one of these areas.

You must also contact our Academic Lead to discuss your application and be prepared to submit a proposal to them for consideration.

To be considered for the MPhil/PhD programme, one of our staff must be willing to supervise your research. You are therefore encouraged to identify a staff member whose research interests accord with your own prior to making an application. Their profiles can be found here: <http://www.qub.ac.uk/schools/ael/Connect/Staff/>

### **How to Apply**

We accept applications on an ongoing basis for entry in late September. While there is no formal application deadline, we advise you apply as early as possible due to the limited availability of supervisors.

To apply online, you will need to submit the following supporting documents:

- A copy of your research proposal.
- Copies of your degree certificates and transcripts.
- Official work e-mail addresses (not private ones) for two academic referees (or one academic and one professional referee where appropriate).

Proof of your English language proficiency (if applicable).

When this information is received the application will be assessed by the relevant academic staff. The applicant will be contacted should further information or an interview be required. The outcome will be reported to the applicant as soon as is practicable.

## **APPLY ONLINE**

### **Writing Your Research Proposal**

Your research proposal is extremely important to your application. The ability to identify and propose a viable research project is a major indicator of your potential for doctoral study. This proposal should be a document of no more than 3 – 4 pages (around 1500 – 2000 words). It should:

- Explain in detail precisely the field of study to which you wish to contribute
- Demonstrate knowledge of the current research gaps your proposed work will address
- Explain how you propose to carry out this research

In order to do this, your research proposal must include the following:

- A clear statement of the proposed research question
- An explanation of the importance and originality of the proposed topic. This may include a section on areas of existing academic work and how your research will contribute to any gaps demonstrated there
- A section describing your proposed research methodology including why this methodology is the most appropriate for this research
- A prospective chapter outline of the proposed thesis, showing how the thesis might be broken down into themes / topics
- A timetable showing a realistic plan, including critical milestones, for the completion of your research and writing within three - four years
- A concluding section showing why this research should be conducted at Queen's University Belfast in the School, within the Subject area and related to the research interests of the proposed supervisory team