

## AHRC PhD Studentship Thatcher's Pension Reforms



The University of Bristol is pleased to announce a three-year PhD studentship as part of AHRC-funded research into '**Thatcher's Pension Reforms and their Consequences**'.

The successful applicant will receive full funding in line with AHRC doctoral studentship rates.

The subject of your studentship will be the role of pension professionals in changes to Britain's system of providing pensions in old age made by the Thatcher governments (reforms that had long term consequences for the country's twenty-first century pension crisis yet which remain poorly understood). The potential scope of enquiry is wide and you will have considerable flexibility in defining its focus. There are clear cross-disciplinary possibilities: you might, for example, approach the study as an economic historian, as a political economist, as a business historian, an economist, or a mathematician.

A range of possible research questions can be identified. For example, how effectively did the actuarial profession navigate this decade of exceptionally rapid change in the landscape of British pensions as the government attempted implicitly to privatise pensions? What analyses and advice did the Government Actuary provide to ministers? How effective were actuaries at modelling key variables such as longevity and real investment returns? Did the pensions industry overestimate its ability to rise to the challenge and sell people the products they actually needed? Did it foresee the negative consequences of the shift towards private pensions, e.g. the mis-selling scandal or low levels of pension saving as people failed to respond as the government intended?

You will be an active member of a research team of four. As well as producing an outstanding PhD dissertation you will be encouraged to contribute to the project's publications.

Applicants must have a first degree in an appropriate subject (minimum 2.1) plus a Master's degree or other professional experience and/or qualifications relevant to the project. A good standard of numeracy and/or experience of quantitative data analysis are desirable. Applicants must fulfil the AHRC's [residency criteria](#).

Informal enquiries about the studentship should be directed to Dr Pemberton, email [h.pemberton@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:h.pemberton@bristol.ac.uk)

Please apply via email to Dr Hugh Pemberton ([h.pemberton@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:h.pemberton@bristol.ac.uk)). Your application should consist of a CV and a covering letter setting out your suitability for this role and confirming that you fulfil the AHRC residency requirement. Please arrange for two references to be sent by referees to the same email address.

Both applications and references should have a subject line of 'AHRC PhD' followed by your name.  
**Closing date for applications and references: 9 a.m. on Monday 29 September.**

Shortlisted candidates will be notified on or around 1 October and invited to interview. They will be required to submit a sample of their work and a short essay.

**Interviews will be held on Tuesday 14 October.**