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A modern history of the Bristol Merchant Venturers PhD Studentship

The Department of History in association with the Bristol Society of Merchant Venturers is offering a doctoral scholarship of £14,075 p.a. (rising in years two and three in line with AHRC rates, subject to satisfactory academic progression and the building of a productive working relationship with the funder), full tuition fee support (£4,052 for 15/16) plus up to £500 p.a. for research expenses commencing in January 2016 (though the start date can be subject to negotiation).

The successful candidate will research and write a modern history of the Bristol Society of Merchant Venturers since 1975. Founded under Royal Charter in 1552 but with roots reaching back into the 13th century, the Society has come to play a significant philanthropic role in the City of Bristol. Through its involvement with local schools it helps to educate over 2000 children in the city; it also has a significant participation in offering training and other support to young people, especially the disadvantaged, both on its own account and in participation with other institutions; it provides care for over a thousand old people in eight residential homes; and it has several other charitable trusts. Its growing philanthropic role in the city mirrors the increasing importance in contemporary British history of charitable involvement in the provision of welfare and education services once considered the responsibility of the state. Researching the Society's modern history will thus engage not just with Bristol but with broader national changes.

The successful candidate will be given full access by the Society to its records and the Society will also facilitate oral history interviews with key actors. The Society may also consider funding an additional year after completion of the PhD during which the student would write a relatively short, popular, and illustrated book on the history of the modern Society of Merchant Venturers and undertake necessary work to convert their PhD dissertation into a monograph for publication.

If interested, please apply in writing to Dr Hugh Pemberton at the Department of History, Bristol University, 9 Woodland Road, Bristol BS8 1TB, or email h.pemberton@bristol.ac.uk, with a statement (no more than 2 pages of A4) of your suitability for this. **Applications should be sent by 9.00 a.m. on 19 October 2015.** Shortlisted candidates will be invited to **interview in early-November.**

For further information, please contact Dr Hugh Pemberton, as above.