



The Medieval March of Wales UKRI PhD Studentship at the University of Bristol

Applications are invited for a UKRI-funded PhD studentship to be held in the Department of English at the University of Bristol. This is an exciting opportunity to be part of the ERC-selected and UKRI-funded research project, '[Mapping the March: Medieval Wales and England, c. 1282–1550](#)', which began in May 2023 and runs until May 2028. The studentship will be supervised by the Principal Investigator, Professor Helen Fulton, with an appropriate second supervisor at the University of Bristol. This full-time studentship, which is funded for 3.5 years at standard UKRI rates, will begin on 1 October 2024.

The Studentship

The research topic of the PhD will be designed by the student in discussion with Professor Fulton. It will be closely related to the objectives of 'Mapping the March', which are to produce cultural and literary histories of the medieval March of Wales, alongside a prosopography and digital maps of the Marcher lordships. The PhD topic is likely to be drawn from one or more of the following fields: comparative literature, linguistics, multilingualism, and manuscript studies. The research will be situated in relation to the March of Wales between 1282 and 1550.

The texts and manuscripts which comprise what might be called 'the Matter of the March' are written in Welsh, English, French, and Latin, and come from both sides of what is now the border between Wales and England. The contents of Marcher manuscripts are rich and varied, comprising poetry, prose, history, scientific literature, medical tracts, travel literature, and prophecy, often grouped together in multilingual manuscripts. As a cultural totality, this literature provides an unparalleled source of information about the history, politics, and culture of Wales and England, and the nature of border society. Much of the literature addresses historical individuals and their circumstances, covering major events of British history such as the Hundred Years War, the aftermath of the Owain Glyn Dŵr rebellion of 1400, and the Wars of the Roses. There is plenty of scope for the PhD studentship to explore the literary and textual implications of this multilingual border literature, its manuscript history, and the transmission of manuscripts among Welsh and English patrons.

Key primary and secondary sources are located in the National Library of Wales in Aberystwyth, the British Library in London, and The National Archives at Kew. Substantial relevant material relating to medieval England and Wales is held in the Arts Library of the University of Bristol. 'Mapping the March' has a significant digital humanities aspect, and the PhD student will have opportunities to contribute to the databases of manuscript catalogues, prosopography, and digital maps. They will also be involved in the outreach for 'Mapping the March', including seminars, conferences, and public engagement.

The studentship will be located in the Department of English in the School of Humanities, part of the Faculty of Arts, Law, and Social Sciences. The School of Humanities has dedicated spaces for research, including shared open-plan offices for PhD students. Subject to UKRI eligibility criteria, the studentship will cover tuition fees (minimum £4786 per year) and a stipend in-line with UKRI rates (for 2023/24 academic year, this was £18,622. The maintenance grant will rise year-on-year and be paid in regular instalments). The studentship will be covered by the terms of the [Statement of Expectations for Doctoral Training](#), published by UKRI in 2024, which includes access to training and support. At the University of Bristol, these are supplied within Faculties and also through the [Bristol Doctoral College](#). The student will be able to apply for up to £500 per year from the University to support research and conference travel.

How to apply

Applicants should have a good undergraduate degree in English, Medieval Studies, Welsh, or another relevant discipline, and should have completed, or be in the process of completing, a relevant Master's degree. They will also need to satisfy the University of Bristol postgraduate research entry requirements. For more information, visit: <https://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/research/english-literature/>

Applicants must be a resident of the UK. In general, full studentships are available to students who are settled in the UK and have been ordinarily resident for a period of at least three years before the start of their postgraduate studies. EU and international applicants are normally not eligible to apply for this studentship.

Applicants should apply online at: <http://www.bris.ac.uk/pg-howtoapply>. Please select <English Literature (PhD)> on the Programme Choice page and September 2024 as your start date. You will be prompted to enter details of the studentship in the Funding and Research Details sections of the form – please enter “ERC: The Medieval March of Wales”. Applicants should submit a CV (maximum 2 pages), a letter outlining their previous studies, research experience, and skills (maximum 2 pages – please upload this as your Personal Statement), and an outline of their preferred PhD topic or area (maximum 1 page – please upload this as your Research Proposal). The letter and outline should indicate their relevance to the ‘Mapping the March’ project. You will also be required to upload transcripts of undergraduate and Master's qualifications and two academic references.

Please note it is the responsibility of applicants to request references from their referees and ensure that these have been uploaded by the deadline of **5.00pm on Tuesday 7 May**. All documents can only be submitted as MS Word or PDF files.

Interviews will be held in person at the University of Bristol on Thursday 23 May.

For research-related enquiries, please contact Professor Helen Fulton: helen.fulton@bristol.ac.uk

For application queries, please contact the Arts Postgraduate Research Admissions team at the University of Bristol: artf-gradschool-admissions@bristol.ac.uk.