

UNIVERSITY OF STIRLING
SCHOOL OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES
LITERATURE AND LANGUAGES
STIRLING CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL PUBLISHING AND COMMUNICATION
In association with The Saltire Society

FULLY-FUNDED AHRC PHD STUDENTSHIP

FURTHER INFORMATION

The Stirling Centre for International Publishing and Communication (www.publishing.stir.ac.uk) at the University of Stirling is pleased to invite applications for a three-year Collaborative Doctoral Studentship, fully funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (UK/EU rate) with an additional stipend and associated expenses from The Saltire Society, to commence on 1 October 2012, or as soon thereafter as can be arranged.

The Saltire Society Book Awards

The project will focus on The Saltire Society's Book Awards (<http://www.saltiresociety.org.uk/3705>), which were established in the 1930s, and which were systematically awarded since 1982, as part of the Society's overall mission 'to foster and enrich the cultural heritage of Scotland'. Winners have included Alasdair Gray, Edwin Morgan, William McIlvanney, Norman MacCaig, Muriel Spark, Sorley MacLean, Iain Crichton Smith, George Mackay Brown, Liz Lochhead, Janice Galloway, John Burnside, A L Kennedy, James Kelman, Jackie Kay, Ali Smith and James Robertson; in addition to historians, literary critics, and biographers of Scotland, Scottish subjects and figures. The literary awards (for Book of the Year and First Book) are supplemented by the History and Research awards.

The Thesis Topic

The scholarship of literary prizes is a developing one, fitting into the broader disciplines of literary sociology, publishing studies and history of the book. The Saltire Society book awards have not been the focus of any concerted analysis, and yet they provide a productive case study of publishers' marketing strategies, the processes of literary value construction and, in their Scottish orientation, a focus for the interactions of literature with concepts and constructions of nationhood. For the Society, the book awards fit within their mission to foster and enrich Scotland's creative life, via the promotion of excellence in the arts and sciences. Yet imaginative literature can be frequently and notoriously resistant to narratives of nation and its promotion; and literary award processes are contingent and frequently based on processes of consensus and compromise. The thesis will examine and analyse the awards, with the aims and objectives of a) establishing a history of the awards, concentrating on the 30-year period from 1982-2012 but also including its earlier establishment, via archival research, interviews, observation and participant observation (including at current judging meetings), and contextual study; b) analysing their role in modern Scottish literature and literary culture; c) analysing their processes and place within literary prize and publishing culture.

The precise scope and emphases of the work will be shaped by the interests and initiative of the successful application in consultation with their academic supervisor, Professor Claire Squires. As the recipient of a Collaborative Doctoral Award, the successful applicant will spend some of their time based at The Saltire Society's offices in Edinburgh, working alongside Saltire Society staff on the current Book Awards, liaising closely with Jim Tough and Sarah Mason (Executive Director and Programmes Manager of the Saltire Society respectively) and Professor Ian Campbell (Chair of the

Book Awards judges). While at the Society, the student will initially shadow the Programmes Manager in her work administering the Book Awards, then be allocated specific tasks relating to them, taking on an increasingly responsible role over the course of the three years. Tasks will include preparing and sending out entry forms; updating databases; updating the website; meeting with Chairs of the book awards panels to discuss the yearly plan; responding to prospective entrants' queries; confirming receipt, cataloguing and numbering entrants; confirming details of panel meetings; awards ceremony preparation and management; contacting shortlisted and winning authors to attend the ceremony; arranging cheques for winners; writing press releases, informing media contacts and following up. There is an established set of processes relating to the book awards, which the student will be encouraged to undertake, analyse, and, potentially, augment and improve.

Potential applicants are welcome to contact Professor Claire Squires (claire.squires@stir.ac.uk 01786 467505) with any questions they may have, or to discuss their preliminary ideas for the thesis topic.

Research Environment

The successful applicant will be a registered student in the Stirling Centre for International Publishing and Communication at the University of Stirling supervised by Professor Squires, with Dr Padmini Ray Murray as the second supervisor. As the recipient of a Collaborative Doctoral Award, the student will additionally be mentored and supervised by Jim Tough and Sarah Mason (Executive Director and Programmes Manager of the Saltire Society respectively) and by Professor Ian Campbell (emeritus) of the University of Edinburgh and Chair of the Saltire Society Book Awards.

It is expected that he or she will spend their first year defining their topic, undergoing research training, until the confirmation of their PhD status (normally ten months after initial registration). Office space and a PC are made available to PhD students and generic training is provided through the Stirling Graduate School. The University of Stirling is a recipient of an AHRC Block Grant Partnership with the University of Strathclyde, offering studentships in Creative Writing, English Language and Literature, History, Journalism and Publishing, and Libraries, Archives and Information Management. The University Library has recently re-opened after an ambitious recreation project and now has state-of-the-art facilities. The libraries of Glasgow and Edinburgh (including the National Library of Scotland) are within an hour's travel. For further information on postdoctoral study at Stirling see <http://www.stir.ac.uk/postgraduate>. The student will also work on part-time placement at The Saltire Society in Edinburgh throughout the three years of the PhD, where he or she will be provided with office space including a PC and telephone.

Application Process

Applicants must have a good first degree in an appropriate subject and a Master's degree relevant to research into contemporary (late 20th/21st century) literature and publishing. A demonstrable interest in literary prizes and modern Scottish writing would be especially welcome, as would an interest in and aptitude for publishing and literary administration.

Applicants should submit the following by e-mail to Sheilah Greig, Graduate Studies Administrator at sahgs@stir.ac.uk by **12 noon on Wednesday 11 July 2012** :

- a Case for Support (that is, an outline of their initial ideas about their approach to the research topic, including potential research questions, approaches, contexts, and a bibliography) of up to 1,000 words in length
- a c.v.

- a sample of their written work, maximum 5000 words (ideally showing evidence of research in a relevant area)
- additionally, two references should be sent direct to sahgs@stir.ac.uk by the closing date

Applicants must fulfil both the academic and the residency criteria set out in the AHRC's Guide to Student Funding:

<http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/FundingOpportunities/Documents/GuidetoStudentFunding.pdf>

As noted above, potential applicants may contact Professor Squires (claire.squires@stir.ac.uk; 01786 467505) to discuss their applications and to put any queries they may have.

Deadline for applications: 12 noon on Wednesday 11 July.

Interviews will be held at The Saltire Society, 9 Fountain Close, 22 High Street, Edinburgh EH1 1TF during the week beginning 6 August 2012.