



**Arts and
Humanities
Research Council**

**South, West
& Wales
Doctoral
Training
Partnership**

SWW DTP2 Recruitment Process 2021-22 Guidance for Applicants

1. SWW DTP2

The [South, West and Wales Doctoral Training Partnership](#) (SWW-DTP) is funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council and a consortium of Higher Education Institutions (HEI) and partner organisations. The SWW-DTP2 Consortium comprises ten member institutions: Aberystwyth University, Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales, Bath Spa University, University of Bristol, Cardiff University, Cranfield University, University of Exeter, University of Reading, University of Southampton, and UWE Bristol.

The SWW-DTP offers unparalleled opportunities to Arts and Humanities PhD students for cross-institutional supervision in both disciplinary and cross-disciplinary projects. Together with our multiple [arts, heritage, cultural, and creative economy partners](#), SWW DTP2 aims to develop researchers who will be equipped for a wide range of careers through the acquisition of research-based, employability, entrepreneurial, and interpersonal skills vital to the 21st-century knowledge economy. SWW DTP2 provides [bespoke support and training](#) tailored to each student's project and career aspirations, enriched by the world-class expertise and state-of-the-art resources offered through the SWW DTP2 Consortium.

We welcome applicants from the UK and overseas with evidence of exceptional promise for PhD study. You will have a compelling research project that will benefit from the expertise we can offer in and across a range of subjects, and from our rich academic resources and network of partners. As an SWW DTP student, you will be provided with access across institutional boundaries to the most relevant and cutting-edge expertise through collaborative supervisory teams, which normally involves supervisors at two different Consortium institutions. This ensures an exceptional breadth and depth of support for your research project.

SWW DTP2 students also benefit from a unique enhanced training programme designed to develop the disciplinary, multi-disciplinary, and interpersonal skills required by researchers and professionals in the Arts and Humanities. You will have access to bespoke individual training along with collective cohort development that provide opportunities to engage in interdisciplinary discussion with your peers, academics and other experts from across the Consortium and beyond.

2. Eligibility for studentships

(i) *Full- and part-time*

SWW DTP2 studentships are open to full-time and part-time applicants from the UK or abroad (applicants from the EU are included as international students). Students in full-time employment during their PhD are not eligible for a studentship. A student in part-time employment during their PhD may be eligible for a part-time award; part-time study should not be less than 50% of full-time.

(ii) Previous education/training

A completed first degree is a requirement for a studentship. If you do not have a result yet for your first degree, you cannot apply to SWW DTP2 in this round. To be eligible to apply for an SWW DTP2 studentship you should normally have, or be studying for, a Master's degree or similar postgraduate qualification. You should also have met all the course requirements of your home institution before the start date of the SWW DTP2 studentship.

If you do not have experience of formal postgraduate study, you would be eligible to apply for a studentship only if you can demonstrate evidence of sustained relevant professional, voluntary, or employment experience beyond your undergraduate degree that is specifically relevant to your proposed research topic and/or methodology that could be considered equivalent to Master's study.

3. Value of studentships and residence requirements

SWW DTP2 studentships entitle both UK and international doctoral students to a tuition fee award and maintenance award. Rates are updated annually by UKRI in January of the calendar year of entry. For the purposes of residence requirements, 'UK' in this document includes the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man.

For 2021-22, the tuition fee rate has been £4,500 per annum (or part-time equivalent), and the maintenance award rate is £15,609 per annum (or part-time equivalent). All students receive these award rates. Rates for 2022-23 will be announced by UKRI/AHRC in January 2022.

All Consortium HEIs charge a higher PhD tuition fee for international students. Please note that for international students, UKRI/AHRC - and therefore SWW DTP - will only fund fees to the equivalent of the Home UK fee. Each consortium member determines how it manages the difference between its home and international student tuition fees. Please check the relevant funding pages of your chosen home institution for its policy on how it manages this difference. Most consortium members waive the difference for DTP students.

Residence requirements for Research Council funding for postgraduate research are based on the [Education \(Fees and Awards\) \(England\) Regulations 2007](#) and subsequent amendments. Please note that the award of Studentships to international applicants is conditional upon their obtaining any necessary visas or permits to study in the UK. SWW DTP2 does not handle visa inquiries, so *all* international applicants should discuss these with the relevant personnel (usually via the Graduate School or equivalent) in the institution to which they are applying for a place to study, and/or embassies and consulates in their country of residence. Consortium HEIs have professional advisors in place to help with such queries.

In addition to their award, studentship holders benefit from additional funding opportunities to support their training, professional development, and research costs.

4. Duration of studentships

An SWW DTP2 studentship lasts three years and eight months (or part-time equivalent). You will be expected to undertake and complete your PhD thesis, any known or expected placements, and/or any training essential to the completion of the thesis within that period. Once their studentship has begun, a studentship holder may apply to *extend* their studentship for up to four months (up to four years in total), *either* to take up an ad hoc placement opportunity that is not planned or expected but that becomes available during the studentship, or could not be completed without an extension and would be beneficial to the student's development, *or* to facilitate a project that from the outset requires a research timeline of longer than three years and eight months due to the exceptional academic requirements of the research.

The AHRC expects all students to submit their project within the funded period and no later than four years after the start of their award (or part-time equivalent), regardless of whether an extension to the studentship period is granted, *unless* a period of suspension has been granted by their home institution for reasons such as maternity, adoption or shared parental leave, illness, or other exceptional personal circumstances.

If you have already begun doctoral study, you may apply for a studentship for the remainder of your studies, providing that, at the start of the studentship, you will have at least 50% of your period of study remaining (excluding any 'writing up' year or part-time equivalent).

5. Your SWW DTP2 application

By making an application to SWW DTP2 you are applying for a studentship only. *You will still need to make a separate application to your choice of **home institution** for your place on your preferred PhD programme.* You do not need to wait for the outcome of your SWW DTP2 application before applying to your home institution. You are advised to apply at roughly the same time as applying for the studentship, if not before then. If awarded a studentship, you must ensure that you have a confirmed place at your choice of home institution by the start of the award.

Applications for an SWW DTP2 studentship must be completed via our [online application system](#). The online application system may also be accessed via the [SWW DTP website](#).

For 2022 entry, the application system will open on Tuesday 30 November 2021 and will close at 11.59 pm on Monday, 24 January 2022.

Once an application form is submitted, *you will not be able to edit the contents*. 'Submission' means you are willing for SWW DTP2 to log the application as complete. Please, therefore, ensure all the documents required are uploaded to your application at the point of submission.

6. Types of studentships

There are [two different types](#) of SWW DTP2 studentship for which you can apply:

- A. *Student-Led Awards*: We invite high-quality applications from prospective students who wish to propose their own research project. The SWW-DTP normally requires students to have two supervisors from two separate institutions within the consortium, unless the necessary expertise can only be found in a single institution; such circumstances are exceptional. Your preferred supervisors must have agreed to supervise your project and you will have to apply both to the SWW DTP2 and to the institution where your lead supervisor is based. You should work closely with your preferred supervisors when framing your application. Their advice will help optimise your submission.
- B. *Collaborative Doctoral Awards (CDAs)*: CDAs are doctoral studentship projects which are developed by consortium academics working in collaboration with an organisation outside of higher education. The supervisory team is pre-determined and consists of two consortium academics and a member of the partner organisation. CDAs embed the opportunity to gain first-hand experience of work outside the university environment and enhance the employment-related skills and training which a student may gain during the course of their award. Eight CDA awards will be available for entry in September 2022.

The remainder of this document goes into more detail concerning the application process for the two types of studentship. *All the information in sections 1–5 above applies to **both** studentship types.* You may submit an application in both the Student-Led and the CDA competition, but the projects must be distinct from one another. If you wish to submit an application to both competitions, please ensure that you have completed two separate and distinct applications within the SWW DTP application system, one Student-Led Scholarship Application and one CDA Scholarship Application.

If you submit an application in both competitions and are subsequently selected to undertake a CDA project, you will need to choose which application to proceed with – it is not permissible to have an application in both competitions once the CDA applicant selection stage has been completed.

A. Student-Led Awards

(i) *Application timeline*

The timeline for applications for Student-Led Awards is as follows:

Application system opens	Tuesday, 30 November 2021
Application deadline	11.59 pm Monday, 24 January 2022
Notification of awards	Wednesday, 31 March 2022

(ii) *Content of application form*

On the online application form you will be asked to provide the following information:

1. Personal Details (including EDI information), Eligibility, and Data Protection
2. Education and Professional History
3. Application Mode, Institutions, Supervision and SWW DTP Alignment

4. Subject area(s), Research Project and Placement Form (additional evidence required for practice-based applicants)
5. Bibliography
6. Certificates of Educational Achievement

(iii) Supervisors

Please make sure you have the agreement of *both* your nominated supervisors before including their names in your application. SWW DTP2 recommends contacting *both* your intended supervisors as early as possible in the application process.. If you have identified a prospective home institution supervisor but are uncertain about co-supervision, the home institution supervisor may be able to help you select the most suitable co-supervisor.

The norm for SWW DTP2 funding is cross-institutional supervision. In other words, supervision is almost always provided by two supervisors from different institutions. If appropriate supervision of this kind is available within the Consortium, we will not normally permit single-institution supervision.

However, we are aware that expertise in certain disciplines is occasionally concentrated in one place and that – exceptionally – there is no academically viable alternative to single-institution supervision. If you believe your project to fall within this limited group, please indicate this in the corresponding section of the application form and supply the additional information requested.

If SWW DTP reviewers believe that appropriate co-supervision is available elsewhere in the consortium and that single-institution supervision is not justified, they are instructed to award the minimum score for the ‘supervision’ section of their report, which will significantly reduce your chances of being offered a studentship. It is therefore extremely important to be sure that this is essential and to justify it carefully below. It is not sufficient justification to say that you have already begun a PhD within a single HEI and wish to retain the team with which you have been working so far.

(iv) Disciplines and subjects

SWW DTP2 welcomes and encourages both single-subject and interdisciplinary applications that are identifiably located within one or more of the subject areas listed below:

- Archaeology
- Classics
- Cultural and Museum Studies
- History
- Law and Legal Studies
- Philosophy
- Political Science and International Studies
- Theology, Divinity and Religion
- Dance
- Design
- Drama and Theatre Studies
- Media
- Music
- Visual Arts
- Languages and Literature
- Linguistics

SWW DTP2 also welcomes and encourages interdisciplinary applications that go beyond the boundaries of the Arts and Humanities and involve research in other fields of study, providing that the approach and methodologies used are primarily situated within the Arts and Humanities and the home supervisor and programme of PhD study are based in one or more of the subject areas above.

Please specify in your application *one, two, or three* of the subject areas above into which your research falls. If your application is interdisciplinary with a subject beyond the boundaries of the Arts and Humanities, please specify that subject area, together with *one or two* of the subject areas listed above. SWW DTP2 will ensure that your application is reviewed by at least one specialist in each of the fields that you specify. Please do *not* therefore specify two or three subject areas unless you are happy for your application to be reviewed by specialists in each of the fields that you specify.

Your selections from the AHRC's list of disciplinary areas above will determine which reviewers are asked to assess your proposal. You may wish to consult the [AHRC's website of disciplines](#) before choosing. Some applications fall within a single discipline. Some applications are cross-disciplinary, in which case you may indicate two different disciplines on the application form in the relevant section. Very occasionally a project falls firmly into three disciplines, in which case you may select a third discipline. Please note that if you select a third discipline, this will trigger an additional review – if the additional reviewer does not consider that the project does indeed fall firmly within the third discipline, the scores from that reviewer are likely to be low and that will negatively affect your chances of funding, so please only select a third area if absolutely necessary.

(vi) Research Project Proposal

This section is one of the most important in your application and the score awarded by reviewers for this is weighted more heavily than the scores for other sections. It is essential to give a clear outline of your PhD project and its context, including:

- an account of its aims, significance, originality, and timeliness
- the principal research questions you will be posing
- the methodologies for your work and any relevant theoretical approaches to be deployed
- the primary materials you will be working with/on
- any outcomes you envisage beyond the PhD thesis itself (e.g. creative outputs, outreach, public engagement, impact)

You should already have a sense of how the PhD is likely to be structured, so please include a brief indication of what this structure currently looks like (this may be in the form of a chapter-by-chapter breakdown, or you may prefer to suggest instead the broad areas into which you expect your work will take you). For some projects (e.g. those involving field work or archival research) it may be useful to provide a rough timeline for such work indicating where it fits within the 3 years and 8 months of funding (or part-time equivalent) provided by SWW DTP2. There is a separate section of this form devoted to placements you may be planning as part of your PhD, so do not include this information in your Research Proposal.

Your research project proposal must be **no longer than 1,500 words**.

Although there is no one right way to write a research proposal, your research proposal should include the following:

- **A working project title**
- **The research problem(s)/question(s)/hypothesis(-es) that you plan to address**
 - Explain why it is/they are important and timely, and how this will be of broader benefit to society
- **The context to your proposed study**
 - Explain what has been said/done about this before
 - Your context may include a selective and critical review of the relevant scholarly literature, assessing its strengths and weaknesses, to show your understanding of the main debates and issues in your research area
 - Indicate how your proposed research will add to, or reconceptualise, what has been said/done to date
- **The research methods you will use**
 - Explain why are these the most appropriate
 - Confirm you have provisional permission to undertake the research on the material, if permission to do so is required
- **Outcomes arising from the research beyond the PhD itself**
 - These may be creative outputs, outreach materials, public engagement activities, policy impact guidelines, etc.
- **Relevant experience that has prepared you to undertake this project at this level**
 - This should include past relevant subject-specific knowledge and training, and achievements (e.g. academic success, especially in research; academic publications).
 - If you know you will require specialist training to undertake your proposal project (e.g. languages; equipment or software use; analytical techniques training), or you have any placement plans that will support your development of these skills, explain this here. Awareness that you will need additional training to complete your proposed research is not a negative reflection on your preparedness to date to undertake your project.
- **A provisional timeline for the completion of your PhD research project**
 - Justify that what you propose to undertake can be completed within the duration of your registration period

The **Bibliography** to your proposal should be submitted as a separate document, uploaded via your main task list on the application system. The Bibliography should simply contain bibliographical details of any works that you cite during the course of your research project proposal. It is **not** meant as an opportunity for you to list all the works in your field with which you are familiar.

(iii) *Creative/practice-based applicants*

If you are applying to fund a creative or practice-led PhD, you must indicate both the nature of the creative and practical work you propose to submit for the PhD and an account of the academic analysis and contextualization that will accompany it. This is extremely important: in the past, excellent creative proposals have scored poorly because they lacked the academic analytical context needed to make these ideas into credible doctorates. Consult the programme regulations at your chosen home institution for an indication of what the programme expects in this regard.

If you are applying for a creative or a practice-based PhD, we invite you to provide one or two links to additional material to demonstrate the practical / creative skills that you possess – e.g. a portfolio of visual or video material, a sample of creative writing, sound files, etc. in the boxes below. Written material should be no longer than 2000 words; audio/video material not more than 30 minutes in duration; portfolios of static images not more than 25 examples. If your materials are longer than these limits, please include in the evidence box clear indications of sections / timings within the material that equate to the limits and on which reviewers should focus. Links should be to public websites or to your own data storage sites and must be such that anyone who legitimately views this application (reviewers and DTP staff) can access the material easily. If a password is needed, please put that in brackets after the link in the relevant box below. If the material is not easily accessible, it will not be considered.

(vii) SWW DTP2 Alignment Statement

Your SWW DTP2 Alignment Statement, which must be **no longer than 300 words**, should focus on how you will benefit from what SWW DTP2 provides – why you want to work within this distinctive community of researchers – and what makes you stand out in an extremely competitive field. This extends beyond funding and includes (but are not limited to):

- training offered
- activities and placements supported
- inter-institutional and inter-disciplinary research communities beyond home universities, such as opportunities for engagement with organisations beyond HEIs in the arts, creative economy, heritage, including (but not limited to) museums, libraries, and archives.

Give specific examples where possible. Make suggestions for additional research clusters, specific training, etc., if you think your project will benefit from these.

(viii) Assessment criteria

Your application will be assessed using the following criteria:

- **Quality of the research project proposal**
- **Experience and aptitude for PhD study**
- **Suitability of supervision**
- **SWW DTP2 alignment**

The expanded criteria are as follows:

1. RESEARCH PROPOSAL ASSESSMENT (40% of the overall score)

SWW DTP2 is seeking to fund research projects that:

- clearly articulate a research question or questions of acknowledged significance to the appropriate discipline(s)
- identify research resources that merit further study and are accessible for research, including archival materials, special library collections, or appropriate online resources

- outline an appropriate methodology
- demonstrate an awareness of the research context surrounding such a question or questions, resources, and methodology
- can be completed within the funding period prescribed by the AHRC (currently 3 years and 8 months full-time or 7 years and 4 months part-time).

If the proposal is for a practice-led / creative PhD project, the research proposal must additionally:

- offer the prospect of original creative work or practice
- combine such work with intellectually rigorous analysis and contextualisation

Grade	Descriptor
5	A proposal of exceptional quality and promise
4.5	
4	An excellent proposal, very high quality
3.5	
3	A good proposal with potential but not articulated as clearly as it might be
2.5	
2	An acceptable proposal, with some weaknesses, and not a priority for funding
1.5	
1	A weak proposal, not fundable

2. PROMISE, POTENTIAL, AND APTITUDE FOR DOCTORAL STUDY (20% of the overall score)

Show a clear aptitude for advanced academic research in the discipline(s) central to the proposed research project as well as promise and potential. This may be evidenced by some or all of the following criteria:

- outstanding undergraduate and/or taught postgraduate degree results
- professional qualifications
- significant work or voluntary experience in a relevant area
- elements of the research proposal itself that show how the applicant has already begun their preparation or how previous experience will be used academically
- published work.

For practice-led / creative applications, most students will have submitted samples of their past work (written, video, audio, multimedia, etc.): the quality and originality of those submissions should be taken into account when scoring this section

Grade	Descriptor
5	Exceptional, showing outstanding aptitude and promise
4.5	
4	Excellent, showing a high degree of aptitude and considerable promise
3.5	
3	Good, showing clear aptitude and promise
2.5	
2	Acceptable, showing some aptitude and promise but leaving room for doubt
1.5	
1	Weak, showing little or no aptitude or promise

3. SUITABILITY OF SUPERVISION PLANS (20% of the overall score)

Criteria include:

- how far the research and publications of all supervisors meshes with the requirements of the research proposal
- whether the proposed supervisors are the most appropriate in the consortium for this work
- how far the combination of the supervisors' expertise is appropriate to the project
- how well the applicant articulates the justification for their supervisory choices
- in cases where a third supervisor is requested; to what extent the third supervisor's expertise is necessary for the project and does not duplicate what might be provided by lead and co-supervisor.
- in cases where single institution supervision is requested, Reviewers are asked comment on the candidate's justification. If single-institution supervision is **not** felt to be justified, this section will be scored no higher than 1

Grade	Descriptor
5	Exceptional, an ideal or virtually ideal supervisory proposal, with experienced and appropriate supervisors whose work very closely matches the student's needs
4.5	
4	Excellent, a supervisory proposal that is extremely well attuned to the research project, with experienced and appropriate supervisors whose work closely matches the student's needs
3.5	
3	Good, a supervisory proposal that is well attuned to the research project, with experienced and appropriate supervisors whose work matches the student's needs
2.5	
2	Acceptable, a supervisory proposal that will support the research project but where the supervisors' experience is not central to it
1.5	
1	Weak, inappropriate or poorly justified supervisory proposal OR a single-institution proposal that need not be confined to one consortium partner

4. SWW DTP2 ALIGNMENT (20% of the overall score)

Criteria include:

- how far the applicant engages with the personal and professional development opportunities of SWW DTP2's training provision
- the extent to which they show an awareness of, and willingness to engage with, the broader research environment(s) in partner HEIs, especially their home institution and their cosupervisory institution
- how far the applicant engages with SWW DTP2's thematic research environment and enabling opportunities
- whether plans for placements within SWW DTP2's schemes are appropriate, imaginative, feasible, etc.

Grade	Descriptor
5	Exceptional, showing outstanding alignment with SWW DTP2
4.5	
4	Excellent, showing a high degree of alignment with SWW DTP2
3.5	
3	Good, showing clear alignment with SWW DTP2
2.5	

2	Acceptable, but showing an under-developed degree of alignment with SWW DTP2
1.5	
1	Weak, showing little or no specific alignment with SWW DTP2

B. Collaborative Doctoral Awards (CDAs)

(i) Application timeline

The timeline for applications for CDAs is as follows:

Application system opens	Tuesday, 30 November 2021
Application deadline	11.59 pm Monday, 24 January 2022
Applicant interviews	February 2022
Deadline for revised application by chosen applicants	Wednesday, 2 March 2022
Notification of awards	Wednesday, 31 March 2022
Deadline for awardee acceptance	Thursday, 29 April 2022

The eight CDA projects available for 2022-23 entry will be advertised no later than Tuesday, 30 November 2021. Interested applicants should email the named contacts, copying in the SWW DTP2 Hub (swwdtp-enquiries@bristol.ac.uk), to discuss the project before developing an application to be considered by the supervisory team. You may apply for only *one* CDA project. Your application must be submitted by 11.59pm on Monday, 24 January 2022.

(ii) Content of application form

On the online application form you will be asked to provide the following information:

1. Personal Details (including EDI information), Eligibility, and Data Protection
2. Education and Professional History
3. Application Mode, Institutions, Supervision and SWW DTP Alignment
4. Subject area(s), Research Project and Placement Form (additional evidence required for practice-based applicants)
5. Bibliography
6. Certificates of Educational Achievement

(iii) Disciplines and subjects

SWW DTP2 welcomes and encourages both single-subject and interdisciplinary applications that are identifiably located within one or more of the subject areas listed under A(iv) – the Student-Led awards – above. There are no differences between the eligible subject areas for the two routes.

(iv) *CDA Research Project Proposal*

This section is one of the most important in your application. It is essential to give a clear outline of your PhD project and its context, including:

- an account of its aims, significance, originality, and timeliness
- the principal research questions you will be posing
- the methodologies for your work and any relevant theoretical approaches to be deployed
- the primary materials you will be working with/on
- any outcomes you envisage beyond the PhD thesis itself (e.g. creative outputs, outreach, public engagement, impact)

The proposal should also address why you are the most appropriate candidate to undertake this particular CDA project, what you will bring to the project, and the enhanced skills that you will develop by undertaking a CDA project.

You should already have a sense of how the PhD is likely to be structured, so please include a brief indication of what this structure currently looks like (this may be in the form of a chapter-by-chapter breakdown, or you may prefer to suggest instead the broad areas into which you expect your work will take you). For some projects (e.g. those involving field work or archival research) it may be useful to provide a rough timeline for such work indicating where it fits within the 3 years and 8 months of funding (or part-time equivalent) provided by SWW DTP2. There is a separate section of this form devoted to placements you may be planning as part of your PhD, so do not include this information in your Research Proposal.

Your research project proposal must be **no longer than 1,500 words**.

Although there is no one right way to write a research proposal, your research proposal should include the following:

- **A working project title**
- **The research problem(s)/question(s)/hypothesis(-es) that you plan to address within the broader CDA project as outlined by the supervisors**
 - Explain why it is/they are important and timely, and how this will be of broader benefit to society
- **The context to your proposed study within the broader CDA project as outlined by the supervisors**
 - Explain what has been said/done about this before
 - Your context may include a selective and critical review of the relevant scholarly literature, assessing its strengths and weaknesses, to show your understanding of the main debates and issues in your research area
 - Indicate how your proposed research will add to, or reconceptualise, what has been said/done to date
- **The research methods you will use**
 - Explain why are these the most appropriate
 - Confirm you have provisional permission to undertake the research on the material, if permission to do so is required
- **Outcomes arising from the research beyond the PhD itself**

- These may be creative outputs, outreach materials, public engagement activities, policy impact guidelines, etc.
- **Relevant experience that has prepared you to undertake this project at this level**
 - This should include past relevant subject-specific knowledge and training, and achievements (e.g. academic success, especially in research; academic publications).
 - Explain why you are an appropriate applicant to undertake this particular CDA project and how your experience and skills have shaped the originally advertised project proposal
 - Set out the enhanced skills that you will develop by undertaking this particular CDA project and how completing the project will contribute to your specific career goals
 - If you know you will require specialist training to undertake your proposal project (e.g. languages; equipment or software use; analytical techniques training), or you have any placement plans that will support your development of these skills, explain this here. Awareness that you will need additional training to complete your proposed research is not a negative reflection on your preparedness to date to undertake your project.
- **A provisional timeline for the completion of your PhD research project**
 - Justify that what you propose to undertake can be completed within the duration of your registration period

The **Bibliography** to your proposal should be submitted as a separate document, uploaded via your main task list on the application system. The Bibliography should simply contain bibliographical details of any works that you cite during the course of your research project proposal. It is **not** meant as an opportunity for you to list all the works in your field with which you are familiar.

(v) SWW DTP2 Alignment Statement

Your SWW DTP2 Alignment Statement, which must be **no longer than 300 words**, should focus on how you will benefit from what SWW DTP2 provides – why you want to work within this distinctive community of researchers – and what makes you stand out in an extremely competitive field. This extends beyond funding and includes (but are not limited to) how you will make use of:

- training offered
- activities and placements supported
- inter-institutional and inter-disciplinary research communities beyond home universities, such as opportunities for engagement with organisations beyond HEIs in the arts, creative economy, heritage, including (but not limited to) museums, libraries, and archives.

Give specific examples where possible. Make suggestions for additional research clusters, specific training, etc., if you think your project will benefit from these.

(vi) Assessment criteria

Your application will be assessed using the following criteria:

The student fit to the project and capacity to develop skills and enhance their employability

- Experience and aptitude for PhD study
- Student shape of and fit to the project
- SWW DTP2 alignment

Categories 1-4 below are used to score written applications in order to shortlist applicants for interview. The fifth category is used to score interview performance.

1. EXPERIENCE AND APTITUDE FOR PHD STUDY:

Criterion: Aptitude for advanced academic research in the discipline(s) central to the proposed research project which may be evidenced by current or completed performance in an undergraduate degree and research preparation master’s programme and/or another form of preparation or training for research.

Grade	Descriptor
5	Exceptional, showing outstanding aptitude for doctoral research
4.5	
4	Excellent, showing a high degree of aptitude for doctoral research
3.5	
3	Very good, showing clear aptitude for doctoral research
2.5	
2	Good, showing some aptitude for doctoral research
1.5	
1	Weak, showing little aptitude for doctoral research

2. STUDENT SHAPE OF AND FIT TO THE PROJECT:

Criterion: Suitability of the student’s shape of the project and relevant experience to undertake the proposed research.

Grade	Descriptor
5	Exceptional, showing outstanding “fit” and potential for development
4.5	
4	Excellent, showing a high degree of “fit” and potential for development
3.5	
3	Very good, showing clear “fit” and potential for development

2.5	
2	Good, showing some elements of “fit” and potential for development
1.5	
1	Weak, showing poor “fit” and potential for development

3. SWW DTP ALIGNMENT:

Criteria: An awareness of and engagement with:

- a. *the project-related, personal and professional development opportunities of SWW DTP2’s training provisions, including capacity to develop skills/enhance employability*
- b. *the research development scope offered by SWW DTP2’s approach to partnerships*
- c. *the thematic research environment and enabling methods.*

Grade	Descriptor
5	Exceptional alignment with the aims and ethos of SWW DTP2
4.5	
4	Excellent alignment with the aims and ethos of SWW DTP2
3.5	
3	Very good alignment with the aims and ethos of SWW DTP2
2.5	
2	Good alignment with the aims and ethos of SWW DTP2
1.5	
1	Weak alignment with the aims and ethos of SWW DTP2

Process note: Having assessed the applications by the above criteria and created a shortlist, the supervisory teams (both HEI and non-HEI supervisors) will interview all shortlisted applicants. You will be contacted during February to let you know whether or not you have been shortlisted, and, if you have, to arrange an interview time. Interviews may take place remotely. The purpose of the interview is to allow the supervisory team to select the most suitable candidate according to the SWW DTP2 Applicant Assessment Criteria.

4. INTERVIEW

This score should focus exclusively on the quality of the applicant’s responses to questions during the interview.

Grade	Descriptor
5	An outstanding interview, exceptionally responsive, alert, detailed, and well-informed
4.5	
4	An excellent interview, highly responsive etc. but leaving room for improvement
3.5	
3	A very good interview, clearly responsive, etc. but not always convincing
2.5	
2	A good interview, able to respond but sometimes without detail or unpersuasively
1.5	
1	A weak interview, inadequate responses.

After interview process:

1. After all the interviews have taken place, all interviewed applicants will be contacted to let them know whether or not they have been selected. Please note that even if you are selected at this stage, the award is not guaranteed but is contingent on approval from the final SWW DTP2 Awarding Board.
2. The selected applicant will be invited to refine the project proposal in collaboration with the supervisory team to reflect the applicant's interests/experience; the project proposal should not however depart in fundamental aspects from the description of the original project. The revised proposal is the version that will be submitted to the Awarding Board for final decision.
3. The final project proposal must be submitted to the Hub via email to swwdtp-enquiries@bristol.ac.uk by Wednesday 2 March 2022. The selected applicants for each of the CDA projects will be informed on Wednesday, 31 March 2022 whether or not they have been awarded a CDA studentship.