

The Hibbert Trust

DOCTORAL SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION

The Hibbert Trust is offering one scholarships for doctoral work in the study of Unitarianism at a UK university.

About the Hibbert Trust

The Hibbert Trust was founded in 1847 under the will of Robert Hibbert, a Unitarian. It seeks to promote public interest and private scholarship in "Christianity in its simplest and most intelligible form." The Trust also administers the Case Fund, left to the Trust in the will of Rev George Case, which seeks to promote liberal religion more generally and upholds "the unfettered exercise of private judgement in matters of religion." These original aims are interpreted within the current context of religion in the UK.

About the Scholarships

The Trustees invite applications under one of the two suggested routes:

1. Theological: Research locating contemporary British Unitarian theology (either as a whole or in one specific area) within recent developments and debates in one area of mainstream theology.
2. Sociological/Anthropological: Research locating contemporary British Unitarianism (either as a whole or in one specific location/form) within recent developments and debates in religious studies.

Priority will be given to those questions which most closely align to the key areas of interest to The Hibbert Trust.

The competition is open to home and international students.

The Scholarship will total up to £4000 per year and will be awarded for a period of three years (or, in the case of part-time students, at an appropriate proportion over the longer time span.)

The Scholarship may be used towards fees or maintenance (where a fee grant has been obtained from another source).

Applicants must apply for all other sources of funding for which they are eligible, and the Trust secretary can advise on Unitarian sources of funding.

The scholarship is conditional on being accepted onto an appropriate doctoral programme in study of religion at a UK university.

Timetable

There is a rolling programme of applications and applications are welcome at any time.

How to Apply

A) Applicants should send:

1. A curriculum vitae (no more than 2 sides of A4);
2. An outline of the proposed research, including the research question, which clearly demonstrates:
 - a. alignment with one of the two scholarship routes
 - b. contemporary academic significance of the research
 - c. the potential 'impact' of the research (the way the research may be significant beyond the academy)
3. A statement outlining how the scholarship will be used (e.g. for fees, maintenance, conference attendance, fieldwork costs), and what other funding has been secured or applied for.

(In cases where an awardee has funding from other sources, the size of the Hibbert Trust grant will be set accordingly)

4. Two academic referees (one of whom may be the proposed supervisor) should write reference letters directly to the Honorary Secretary.
5. If the applicant has already been accepted onto an appropriate doctoral programme, they should provide evidence that this is so. Otherwise, an award will be made to a successful candidate subject to confirmation at a later date of their having been accepted onto an appropriate programme. This confirmation must include a brief statement (no more than 500 words) from the proposed supervisor including:
 - i. why they are happy to supervise the applicant on the proposed project
 - ii. how and why the supervisor's institution is a good fit for the person and project
 - iii. what the completion rates at the host institution are

All documents should be sent by email to the Honorary Trust Secretary, Rachel Skelton, thesecretary@thehibberttrust.org.uk

Any queries should also be directed to the Honorary Secretary.