**AHRC/Edinburgh Television Festival Talent Scheme**

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## **Scheme Aims:**

The scheme is intended to provide an opportunity for AHRC-funded PhD students to attend the Edinburgh Television Festival (ETF) and participate in a specifically curated programme of events at one of the television industry’s most important events (<http://www.thetvfestival.com/>).

The Festival takes place over five days, between 20th and 24th August 2018, in Edinburgh. Successful candidates will engage with the Festival team prior to the Festival to help shape their experience. There will also be opportunities to receive mentoring after the Festival.

The scheme is open to students:

* conducting research into television or media more broadly
* conducting research in other topics and interested in providing that expertise for broadcast projects

It will provide a training opportunity for AHRC-funded students to develop skills, make contacts and increase knowledge of the industry. It is targeted at students who are interested in working in, or with, the television industry.

It should be noted that the AHRC/ETF Talent Scheme is not an opportunity to undertake research.

## **Scheme Content:**

Successful applicants will attend some bespoke sessions that will be curated by the Festival in conjunction with the successful candidates of the festival’s other talent initiatives. They will also get the chance to attend other sessions targeted at those with an interest in working in, or with, the industry. In addition, they will receive a pass that enables them to attend the remainder of the festival.

Successful candidates will be paired with an industry guide to enhance the festival experience and support their networking opportunities. A dedicated area of the Festival website will be set up for the successful candidates, including profiles of the successful candidates.

They will receive mentee training and mentors recruited by ETF, as well as year-round support from the Festival’s talent scheme department. This support will take the form of responsive after care for successful candidates, including advice and brokering support from the EITF team.

Topics for the AHRC tailored sessions could include topics such as an Introduction to how the industry works; Making the most of being a mentee; Pitching/Speed meeting training. However, sessions will be developed based on the interests of successful applicants in order to ensure it is relevant to their needs and expertise.

The broader sessions will include opportunities for networking and likely include sessions with Creative Directors or Documentary Commissioners, CV Clinics, as well as speed meetings with commissioners or other Industry professionals.

Accommodation for the duration of the Festival will be provided and bursaries are also available to meet travel costs where needed.

## **Eligibility:**

The scheme is open to PhD Students who are currently being funded by the AHRC through an AHRC Doctoral Training Partnership (DTP), an AHRC Centre for Doctoral Training (CDT) or an AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Partnership (CDP). The student must be within their AHRC funding period.

Applications must be discussed and supported by the AHRC DTP, CDT or CDP and by your supervisor.

## **Awards Available:**

Funding is available to support 6 successful candidates.

## **Assessment Process:**

There is a two stage assessment process, involving the submission of an application form, which will be assessed by a shortlisting panel. Up to 12 candidates will then be invited for interview from which the 6 success candidates will be chosen.

At the application stage, candidates will be asked to complete an application form which includes three questions intended to highlight the candidates’ motivation for applying, as well as their relevant knowledge and expertise. Candidates are also required to attach a CV. Applications will be assessed by a panel of AHRC and ETF Officers.

Details of the Interview stage will be sent out to the successful candidates. Please note key dates for when these will be scheduled.

## **Application Form:**

Applicants must complete their application and submit it via a web based application form (available here: <http://www.thetvfestival.com/talent-schemes/tv-phds/> ) by **10am on Thursday March 8th 2018**.

The form will ask the applicant to provide:

* Contact details
* CV and publication list (no more than 2 sides of A4 in total)
* Responses to the following questions:-

1. Explain how your current career plans relate to working in, or with, the television industry and outline any previous experience. How might the opportunity to attend the ETF support these plans?
2. Outline how your research is/could be relevant to the working in, or with, the TV industry? Describe your motivation for wanting to work in, or with, the television industry?
3. Tell us about a TV programme that has had a major impact, either positive or negative, on you as a viewer over the past year, and why you feel so strongly about it?
4. What area(s) of the Television Industry are you interested in working with or in?

## **Assessment Criteria:**

**Application Stage**

We’re looking for candidates who have the potential to work well within or with the television industry, and who will make the most of the opportunities offered by the scheme. **We should be able to get a sense that this scheme can help them develop their career in a way that they can’t achieve on their own**. We are also looking for:

* People who are dynamic, creative, ambitious and driven
* Well thought out, well expressed answers
* Well researched answers that show some evidence of industry knowledge and issues, and an understanding of what the scheme will do for them

Application Questions

Q1 – Thoughtful personal response, demonstrating a good understanding of what the scheme can offer and a clear articulation of career stage and how the scheme can help progression. Where there is no TV experience, mention of linking relevant, transferable skills.

Q2 – Demonstrates the applicant’s ambition and drive and understanding of which topic areas would work well in television or would be of interest to the industry at large.

Q3 – There should be emphasis of the impact on both the applicant as viewer but also a wider appreciation of the programme’s wider audience and the process of its creation. This can be either positive or negative but it must be a well-argued answer and clearly express the applicants’ own opinion and thoughts. They may also cite relevant sources, but it shouldn’t form the bulk of their argument.

Q4 – While we are not expecting candidates to have an encyclopaedic knowledge of all the roles within television, there should have a clear and realistic sense of where their skills might fit it into the industry.

**Interview Stage**

* The interview stage will further explore the candidates’ reasons for wishing to attend the Festival and work in, or with, the television industry.

## **Conditions of Funding**

*Please note that you will need to be able to attend an interview and, if successful, the preparation session/ workshop in May and debrief session in October. There will also be a requirement of all successful candidates to produce a report of their experience of the Festival. This could be delivered in different formats, for example a blog or vlog, and will need to be submitted within two weeks of the end of the Festival.*

## **Application Timetable:**

Scheme Deadline: 8 March 2018

Panel Meeting: 15 March 2018

Shortlisted Applicants Announced: End of March 2018

Interviews: 10th or 11th April 2018

Successful Candidates Announced End of April 2018

Preparation Session/Workshops: May-July 2018

ETF Attendance August 21st to August 24th 2018

Debrief Session: October 2018

## **Contacts**

* For Edinburgh Television Festival related enquiries: campbell.glennie@thetvfestival.com
* For AHRC related enquiries: dtp@ahrc.ac.uk