SEAHA Studentship: SEAHA David Arnold Memorial Scholarship – ‘use-inspired basic research’ in Cultural Heritage

SEAHA (Science and Engineering in Arts Heritage and Archaeology) is a PhD research training programme delivering the next generation of research leaders in Heritage Science. It is a collaboration between UCL, Oxford and Brighton and supported by the EPSRC. SEAHA is funding 60 4-year PhD studentships between 2014 and 2022, involving over 70 heritage and industrial partners and offering an exceptionally rich and well-supported PhD experience for our future heritage scientists.

A SEAHA PhD studentship consists of a one year MRes at UCL, followed by a three year PhD programme at the host institution (in this case, University of Brighton). All SEAHA projects are supervised by a team of academic, heritage and industrial supervisors, who are involved in the project throughout the four years, and often involve substantial placements with heritage or industrial partners. In addition, SEAHA students take part in a range of additional training and professional activities with other students across the programme, have access to Heritage Science facilities in all three institutions and partners, and have individual research budgets of £3k per year.

The David Arnold Memorial Scholarship has been established by the SEAHA Management Team, in memory and celebration of Professor David Arnold, one of the founding directors of the SEAHA programme and founder of the Cultural Informatics Research Group at the University of Brighton, who passed away in October 2016.

David’s research interests were intrinsically inter-disciplinary, and lay in the conception of digital technologies that fundamentally empower new forms of enquiry and communication about cultural heritage. This ‘use-inspired basic research’ approach aims to identify challenges in cultural heritage which require advances in technology (rather than just the application of existing technology) to address them, and then undertake research which explore these two aspects together. For example, the 3D-COFORM project developed novel 3D modelling and shape analysis algorithms and applied them to the reconstruction of historic statues shattered in the L'Aquila earthquake in 2009.

You are invited to submit a PhD project proposal, of up to 1000 words, which adopts a use-inspired approach to address a Cultural Heritage challenge. The heart of your proposal will be a novel application of digital technology to cultural heritage, but this will arise out of interaction with cultural heritage stakeholders, addressing their needs and perspectives, and will be evaluated through practical deployment exercises with these stakeholders. Your eventual project will include cultural and industrial partners to support your work.
You may make reference to possible partners (with their permission of course) if you have them, but we do not expect or require this – part of the process following selection will be for us to help you find the right partners from our extensive network of SEAHA partners. You may also make reference to particular academic supervisors at the University of Brighton, but again we do not require this. However, note that the availability of suitable supervisory expertise at Brighton will be one of the considerations in the selection process. The supervisors named above (Evans and Kaminski) will support the development of the final proposal, but the proposal does not need to be aligned to their particular research areas, or feature them as the actual potential supervisors.

The following publications will give you a better idea of David’s approach, but we do not intend this to be prescriptive, and welcome your own interpretations of the overall brief.

- Arnold, David (2008) Cultural heritage as a vehicle for basic research in computing science: Pasteur’s quadrant and a use-inspired basic research agenda. Computer Graphics Forum, 27 (8). pp. 2188-2196. ISSN 1467-8659

**Selection process:** complete applications received by the application deadline will be shortlisted, and shortlisted applicants will be invited for interview, after which a single successful applicant will be selected. We will then work with the successful applicant (prior to the start of the studentship), to identify academic, cultural and industrial partners, and adapt the project proposal for formal approval by the SEAHA Steering Committee. Once this approval has been obtained, the studentship itself can start (in October 2018, or possibly earlier by agreement).

As a SEAHA student, you will have unparalleled access to research infrastructure and expertise across three universities and 60+ heritage, research and industrial partners. In addition to the university doctoral training requirements, SEAHA students take part in an exciting range of cohort activities, ranging from residential events and group projects, to conferences and careers events. Please visit the [SEAHA website](#) for details.
Academic entry criteria: Applicants should have a minimum of a 2:1 undergraduate degree and desirably hold or expect to achieve excellent grades in a masters degree, in a relevant subject from a UK university or comparable qualifications from another recognised university.

Applicants are required to submit a research proposal of approx 1,000 words.

English language entry requirements
Applicants whose first language is not English must have successfully completed a Secure English language Test (SELT) in the last two years. Applicants who have obtained or are studying for a UK degree may apply without a SELT. However, the university may request a SELT is taken as part of any award made.

English language IELTS requirements: we require an overall score of 6.5 with 6.5 in reading and writing, 6.0 in listening and speaking.

If you have an English language qualification other than IELTS, please contact us to see if you are eligible to apply for a studentship. The UK Home Office will not accept TOEFL tests as proof of meeting the English language requirements.

Training path: The student will be part of the EPSRC Centre for Doctoral Training SEAHA (Science and Engineering for Arts, Heritage and Archaeology). Students will register for the one year MRes SEAHA at UCL in year 1 and then continue to PhD studies for years 2-4 of the studentship.

Eligibility criteria
See http://www.seaha-cdt.ac.uk/study-with-us/studentships/eligibility-criteria/

Enquiries: Please contact the academic supervisor for further information, Dr Roger Evans R.P.Evans@brighton.ac.uk or the SEAHA administrator for Brighton, Corinna Hattersley-Mitchell, c.hattersley-mitchell@brighton.ac.uk

Funding: This project is a four year integrated MRes/PhD studentship in the SEAHA Centre for Doctoral Training (www.seaha-cdt.ac.uk), funded by the EPSRC, UCL, the University of Brighton, the University of Oxford, and SEAHA heritage and industrial partners. The project is fully funded for UK resident students, and fees-only for other EU students. Limited possibility of funding for international students may also be available.
Application deadline: 09.00 on 21 December 2017
Interviews: Week commencing 15 January 2018

How to apply:

The application should be submitted by email direct to Corinna Hattersley-Mitchell C.Hattersley-Mitchell@brighton.ac.uk, and not by the UCL or UoB online admissions system.

To submit an application, please include all of the following:

- a substantial covering letter (2–3 pages) including a clear explanation of your motivation for your proposed project
- a statement of your understanding of your eligibility according to the information provided at: http://www.seaha-cdt.ac.uk/study-with-us/studentships/eligibility-criteria/ and https://www.epsrc.ac.uk/skills/students/help/eligibility/
- a research proposal (approx. 1,000 words) including project research questions and methodology
- a full detailed CV
- contact details for two academic references (names, postal and email addresses)
- proof of meeting the UCL/UoB English language proficiency requirements where necessary.

We will only consider complete applications.