

Thatcher's Pension Reforms: PhD Ad

AHRC PhD Studentship Thatcher's Pension Reforms

The Department of Historical Studies at the University of Bristol is pleased to announce a three-year PhD studentship as part of AHRC-funded research into '**The Thatcher Pension Reforms and their Consequences**'.

The successful applicant will receive full funding (tuition fees; maintenance payment of £13,726 p.a., increasing in line with AHRC doctoral studentship rates).

Reforms undertaken by the Thatcher governments to Britain's system of providing pensions in old age had long term consequences for the country's twenty-first century pension crisis yet they remain poorly understood. The subject of your studentship will be the role of pension professionals in those changes. How effectively did the profession navigate this decade of exceptionally rapid change in the landscape of British pensions as the government attempted implicitly to privatise pensions? What analyses and advice did the Government Actuary provide to ministers? Did the profession overestimate its ability to rise to the challenge and to sell people the products they actually needed? Did it foresee the negative consequences of the policy shift, e.g. the mis-selling scandal or low levels of pension saving as people failed to respond as the government intended? How good was the profession at foreseeing future problems such as rising longevity and changes in inflation, interest rates and investment returns? The potential scope of enquiry is wide and you will have some flexibility in defining its focus.

You will be an active member of a research team of four and will contribute to the project's publications as well as produce an outstanding PhD dissertation.

Applicants must have a first degree in History, Economic History, Economics or another appropriate subject (minimum 2.1) plus a Master's degree or other professional experience and/or qualifications relevant to the project. A good standard of numeracy and/or experience of quantitative data analysis is desirable. Applicants must fulfil the AHRC's [residency criteria](#).

Informal enquiries about the studentship should be directed to Dr Pemberton, email h.pemberton@bristol.ac.uk

Please apply via email to Dr Hugh Pemberton (h.pemberton@bristol.ac.uk). Your application should consist of a CV and a covering letter setting out your suitability for this role and confirming that you fulfil the AHRC residency requirement. Please arrange for two references to be sent by referees to the same email address.

Both applications and references should have a subject line of 'AHRC PhD' followed by your name.
Closing date for applications and references: 9 a.m. on Wednesday 30 July 2014.

Shortlisted candidates will be notified on or around 6 August and invited to interview. They will be required to submit a sample of their work and a short essay.

Interviews will be held on Wednesday 27 August.