



Review of Language Benefits of Welsh Medium Television Programmes for Children 0-7 Years Old Fully Funded PhD Research Studentship

The College of Education and Lifelong Learning is offering a Postgraduate Studentship in child language acquisition and bilingualism under the supervision of Dr Enlli Thomas and Dr Gwyn Lewis, in collaboration with S4C. The studentship is funded by the Knowledge Economy Skills Scholarships (KESS) programme, and intends to start no later than October 2011. It includes a tax free maintenance grant of £14k per annum, with full-time fees paid and additional allowances. A requirement of the studentship is a minimum 30-day non-remunerated work placement per annum. More information on the studentship and application process can be found at www.higherskillswales.co.uk/kess

The research programme.

Applications are invited from potential researchers who wish to pursue a scientific programme of research looking at the facilitative role of Welsh-medium television programmes in supporting children's acquisition of Welsh. The research will aim to explore the following questions:

- (a) To what extent does the linguistic nature of Welsh-medium TV programmes cater for the linguistic needs of L1 and L2 children?
- (b) To what extent do children in Wales engage with Welsh-medium programmes, and is that engagement passive or active?
- (c) To what extent can Welsh-medium programmes supplement young children's Welsh language development, particularly so in a minority language situation where children are developing bilingually?



The College of Education is home to a number of full-time academic members of staff who teach and research in a number of areas relating to education, bilingualism, and child development, and many of the staff are members of the ESRC Centre for Research on Bilingualism in Theory and Practice. Further information about the College and about the Centre can be found on the following websites:

<http://www.bangor.ac.uk/addysg/> & <http://bilingualism.bangor.ac.uk/index.php.en?>

The successful applicant will:

- have achieved a high 2i or first class honours degree or a postgraduate qualification in a relevant field (e.g., Psychology, Linguistics, Speech Sciences, Education);
- be a fluent Welsh speaker and writer;
- demonstrate the capability and diligence required to complete a PhD by research within the period of the award.

Whilst it is desirable that the successful candidate has had at least some research experience in the past, expert training and support will be available throughout.

For further information regarding the research, please contact Dr Enlli Thomas (enlli.thomas@bangor.ac.uk).

This is a PhD Scholarship where the ability to speak Welsh is essential. However, the candidate can choose whether to write the dissertation in Welsh or in English.

How to apply

The first step in the application process will be to complete and submit an eligibility form which can be downloaded [here](#). This form must be completed, signed and submitted to Katie Minton, Senior Clerical Officer, KESS, Room E:109, The management Centre, College Road, Bangor, LL57 2DG. You will receive a response regarding your eligibility within 5 working days of receipt of your form.



The closing date for formal applications will be **30 June 2011** and short-listed applicants will be required to attend an interview, with an anticipated start date of no later than October 2011.

Eligibility

To be eligible to participate in the KESS programme, prospective students must be resident in the Convergence Area (West Wales and the Valleys) on application, and be able to work in the Convergence Area upon completion of the scholarship. The eligibility form is the first step in the application process and any applications which do not meet the above criteria will not be processed further.

Knowledge Economy Skills Scholarships (KESS) is a pan-Wales higher level skills initiative led by Bangor University on behalf of the HE sector in Wales. It is part funded by the Welsh Assembly Government's European Social Fund (ESF) convergence programme for West Wales and the Valleys.

