

The School of Arts, Culture and Language (Bangor University), supported by the ESRC Doctoral Training Partnership for Wales (Wales DTP), and in collaboration with Datblygiadau Egni Gwledig (DEG), invites applications for funded PhD study in the Bilingualism Pathway, commencing in October 2023, on the topic of

The role of Welsh in community action enterprises

What are the effects of treating a native language as secondary in a bilingual country like Wales? Language skills and attitudes affect people's ability to function in society, for instance affecting Welsh first-language speakers' engagement in English-medium discussion contexts. Diglossia in Wales can induce conflicts, including strongly experienced ingroup-outgroup oppositions and Welsh speakers contesting typical English domains.

In public communication settings like DEG's community assemblies, diverse attitudes, language backgrounds and skills meet, with participants ranging from 'native' via 'new' Welsh speakers to monolingual English speakers. From experience, the use of Welsh is essential for the decision-making process towards positive joined-up activities: many locals would refuse to participate in an action that was proposed and discussed primarily through the medium of English, despite having a clear understanding of it. They may neither feel included nor encouraged to engage.

This project's specific research question "What are the effects of treating Welsh as secondary during decision-making processes in bilingual community groups located in primarily Welsh-speaking regions?" will be addressed through standard (socio-)linguistic methodologies (surveys, interviews, observation, discourse analysis). Cognitive Discourse Analysis ([Tenbrink, 2020](#)) will be used to address speakers' concepts and thought patterns beyond those explicitly formulated in the content of what people say, reflected by the way it is said. Resulting insights will be collaboratively translated into guidelines and recommendations for community actions in bilingual contexts.

Applications are invited from exceptional candidates with a first class or strong upper second-class honours degree, or appropriate Master's degree. Additionally, this project requires knowledge of the Welsh language; applicants should be either already fluent in Welsh or demonstrate a strong commitment to learning to a high level within their first year of PhD study.

Both the University and the ESRC Wales DTP value diversity and equality at all levels and we encourage applications from all sections of the community, irrespective of age, disability, sex, gender identity, marital or civil partnership status, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief and sexual orientation. In line with our commitment to supporting and promoting equality, diversity and inclusion, and to increase recruitment of currently underrepresented groups, applications from Black British, Asian British, minority ethnicity British and mixed race British candidates are particularly encouraged and welcomed. We

welcome applications for both full and part-time study, and studentships are available as either '1+3' (i.e. one full time year of research training Masters followed by three years of full-time Doctoral study, or the part-time equivalent), or '+3' (i.e. three years of full-time doctoral study or its part-time equivalent), depending on the needs of the applicant.

The student will be co-supervised by Dr Thora Tenbrink (Professor of Linguistics, School of Arts, Culture and Language) and Dr Lowri Angharad Hughes (Head of Policy and Development, Canolfan Bedwyr), in close collaboration with key representatives of DEG.

Applications are welcomed by 3 February 2023 (12:00pm GMT).

With a collaborative award of this kind, applicants need to take careful consideration of the working title and description of the project, and may wish to contact Prof Thora Tenbrink t.tenbrink@bangor.ac.uk for a discussion prior to applying.

WHAT THE STUDENTSHIP WILL COVER

Studentship Awards commence in October 2023 and will cover your tuition fees as well as a maintenance grant (currently £17,668 p.a. for 2022/23 for full-time students, updated each year); and includes access to an additional Research Training Support Grant (RTSG), though an element of this latter fund may be 'pooled' and require separate applications from 2023 onwards. There are other opportunities and benefits available to studentship holders, including an overseas fieldwork allowance (if applicable), internship opportunities, overseas institutional visits and other small grants.

ELIGIBILITY

ESRC studentships are highly competitive, candidates should have an excellent academic background in the social sciences, holding a 1st or strong upper 2nd class degree; applications from those also holding a relevant research training Masters degree (or an equivalent background in research training) will be considered for a +3 award. Wales DTP studentships are available to both home and international (including EU and EEA) students. All applicants will be eligible for a full award consisting of a maintenance stipend and payment of tuition fees at the UK research organisation rate. Applicants must satisfy studentship eligibility requirements. For further details see the [UKRI web site](#). Successful international student applicants will receive a fully-funded Wales DTP studentship and will not be charged the fees difference between the UK and international rate.

1+3 OR +3?

With exception of studentships in the Economics pathway, awards are available on either a 1+3 or +3 basis. A 1+3 studentship provides funding for four years (or part-time equivalent),

completing a research training Masters in the 1st year, followed by 3 years research funding for a PhD. A +3 studentship provides funding for the three years PhD research study only (or part-time equivalent).

ASSESSMENT

The closing deadline for applications is 12.00pm GMT on Friday 3rd February 2023. Short-listed applicants will be invited to interview, which are expected to take place in late February/early March 2023. After interview, a final short-list of applicants will be put forward to a Panel convened by the ESRC Wales DTP Management Group at which final decisions with regard to studentship awards will be made. In most cases successful applicants can expect to hear in April 2023.

HOW TO APPLY

A **completed** application form for admission to doctoral study at Bangor University must be submitted to https://www.bangor.ac.uk/courses/postgrad/research/apply_research.php.en by the deadline of 12:00pm GMT on 3 February 2023. Incomplete applications or applications received after this specified time will not be accepted.

The application must contain the following documents:

1. Covering letter: Please address to Prof Thora Tenbrink. The covering letter must name the collaborative studentship being applied for. It must set out your reasons and motivation for applying to study at Bangor University, and the Bilingualism Pathway; your understanding, and expectations of doctoral study; and your academic interests generally, and particularly **how these relate to the description of the project supplied**. The covering letter should be no more than two pages. Please also specify whether you wish to apply on a +3 or 1+3 basis.
2. Academic / Professional Qualifications: Where appropriate, this should also include proof of English Language Competency (see institutional entry requirements; 7.0 IELTS minimum).
3. References: All applications require two academic references to be submitted in support. Candidates must approach referees themselves and include the references with their application.
4. Curriculum Vitae: This should be no longer than two pages.
5. Research Proposal: For collaborative studentships, the proposal should build directly on the outline description that has been supplied. The proposal should be up to a *maximum*

of 1000 words, not including bibliographic references. We suggest that you use the following five headings in your research proposal:

- Your reflections on the title, aims and purpose of the research;
- An overview of some key research literature relevant to the study;
- Your proposals for developing the design and methods of the study;
- A description of potential outcomes of the project for understanding, knowledge, policy and practice (as appropriate to the topic);
- Bibliographic references

6. A completed [Equal Opportunities form](#).

7. In the online application system, Under the **Programmes** tab, please select '**Bangor University Advertised Studentships...**'

Postgraduate Research
(PhD, EDD, MPhil, Masters by Research)

Your own research project...

PhD project opportunity...

Bangor University Advertised Studentships...

Then select '**PhD Studentship in Bilingualism: The role of Welsh in community action enterprises**', making sure to add Prof Thora Tenbrink to the 'Academic Contact' box. Click Add.