

Legal Biography Project

Sources of funding for MPhil/PhD projects

Prospective postgraduates seeking to undertake M.Phils/Ph.Ds under the auspices of the Legal Biography Project will most likely need funding for their research. The Legal Biography Project is not currently a source of funding. There are, nevertheless, various awards for which our prospective students will be eligible. The range and extent of these awards changes regularly, and different students are likely to be eligible to apply for different funds; and so the details which follow should by no means be taken to be completely up-to-date or exhaustive.

The main source of funding is the AHRC, which operates a *Doctoral Awards Scheme* providing support for students undertaking doctoral study. (Anyone seeking *post*-doctoral involvement with the Legal Biography Project will probably do best to look first to the British Academy for funding: <http://www.britac.ac.uk/funding/guide/pdfells.html>.) The AHRC scheme supports PhD research that ‘seeks to improve or develop creativity and understanding in the artistic and creative activities, history, languages, literatures and systems of thought and belief of human beings, both past and present.’ Students should normally have gained a first degree from a recognised HEI and are normally expected to have, or be studying for, a Master’s degree or similar postgraduate qualification. They should have been formally or provisionally accepted at the HEI where they intend to study and through which they are applying. The awards are usually full awards (ie, fees and maintenance), though fees-only awards are also provided. The AHRC currently makes around 650 of such awards each year. EU applicants are eligible, and applicants must ordinarily be resident in the UK or EU. The awards can run for up to five years, and will normally run for three years for full-time students. The deadline for applications tends to be early May. Applicants must apply through the HEI which they propose to attend (the HEI may require the application in advance of the AHRC’s deadline). Full details and application form at:

http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/university_staff/postgrad/doctoral_scheme.asp

Many prospective students will also be eligible for a variety of *LSE studentships and scholarships*, though, as compared with the AHRC’s scheme, these are obviously far more limited in number. See:

<http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/studentServicesCentre/financialSupportOffice/>

Furthermore, the University of London assists with postgraduate research costs through the administration of its Central Research Fund Grants (www.london.ac.uk/crf). Note that the LSE Financial Services Centre provides a useful list of external funding opportunities for prospective postgraduates. Visit:

<http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/studentServicesCentre/financialSupportOffice/ExternalScholarships.htm>

The *Wingate Foundation* awards Scholarships to British-based ‘individuals of great potential or proven excellence who need financial support to undertake pioneering or original work of intellectual, scientific, artistic, social or environmental value’ The average total award is about £6,500 and the maximum in any one year is £10,000. Funding may be for up to 3 years. Information and application details at:

www.wingate.org.uk/scholarships/criteria

The *Modern Law Review* annually awards up to £25,000 in financial support ‘for outstanding research students engaged on doctoral research at a university in the United Kingdom on any subject broadly within the publishing interests of the Review.’ These scholarships are awarded by annual competition based on nominations to be submitted by the head of department of the University in which the applicant is, or will be, registered as a research student. Details at:

<http://www.modernlawreview.co.uk/scholarship.asp>

Information specific to overseas applicants

US applicants can normally apply for Fulbright Awards:

<http://www.fulbright.co.uk/awards/us/postgrad/traditional.html>

Small awards (up to £2,500) are available to Canadian graduate students through the Canadian Centennial Scholarship Fund:

www.canadianscholarshipfund.co.uk

Japanese students should be eligible to apply for fellowships from the Japan Foundation:

<http://www.jpjf.go.jp/>

Applicants from New Zealand should be eligible for Outgoing Scholarships from their government’s Doctoral Research Scholarships scheme:

www.newzealandeducated.com/scholarships

The Association for Commonwealth Universities provides some funding for international students:

<http://www.acu.ac.uk>

... as does the Overseas Research Students Awards Scheme:

<http://www.orsas.ac.uk/>

The Legal Biography Project will do whatever it considers appropriate to support prospective students' applications to any of these funding bodies, or other relevant bodies, though of course it cannot guarantee that any support it provides will ensure that applications are successful.

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