



## **Ad Astra PhD Studentships in the School of Art History and Cultural Policy, UCD**

The School of Art History and Cultural Policy at University College Dublin is pleased to announce a generously funded Ad Astra PhD studentship in Creative & Cultural Industries. The award is open to both EU and non-EU candidates and includes a full tuition fee waiver, a stipend of €22,000 per annum, and €4,000 per annum for research. The award is for a maximum of four years of full-time PhD study. The studentship will be supervised by the School's new Ad Astra Fellow, Dr Benjamin Anderson. Further information on the position is below, followed by details on how to apply.

### **UCD PhD Studentship in Creative & Cultural Industries**

Dr Anderson is interested in receiving proposals for research studies that interrogate work and labour in creative and cultural industries. He particularly welcomes proposals that engage with one or more of the following themes:

- Discrimination and marginalisation in neo-craft industries and worker responses.
- Worker-directed inquiry in neo-craft industries broadly defined (heritage clothing, third-wave coffee, artisan baking, craft brewing, etc.).
- Critical/radical research methodologies in cultural and craft industries (workers' inquiry, worker/radical investigation, etc.).
- Progressive discourse and neoliberal ideology in cultural and craft industries.
- Historical and ideological roots of craft and neo-craft industries.
- The hipster economy and gentrification/urban change.
- Class composition, worker organising and international solidarity in hipster/neo-craft industries.
- Independent labour union organising in craft and cultural industries.
- Craft in the Marxist theoretical tradition.
- Intersections of craft, labour process analysis, and managerial discourse.
- Other critical interrogations of working conditions and processes in craft, creative, and cultural industries.

### **Requirements**

- Strong academic record, including a master's degree in a humanities or social science discipline (sociology, communication, cultural policy, geography, etc.).
- A background or interest in critical studies of work and labour, including (but not limited to): political economy, labour process analysis, workers' inquiry, and critical theory.
- Familiarity with or willingness to learn social and ethnographic research methods.
- Excellent written, verbal and interpersonal communication skills.
- Proficiency in English (documentation may be required in some cases).



#### Responsibilities:

- Completion and defence of a PhD thesis, adhering to UCD's academic standards.
- Production of research outputs and participation in conferences related to the doctoral research.
- Collaboration with the supervisor, which may include joint research outputs.
- Active participation in seminars, workshops, and events relevant to the project within the School of Art History & Cultural Policy, across UCD, and more widely in the field.
- Completion of UCD's Research Integrity training.

Should you have any questions or wish to discuss your proposal prior to application, please contact Dr Anderson at [Benjamin.anderson@ucd.ie](mailto:Benjamin.anderson@ucd.ie)

Dr. Anderson is interested in political economy of communication/culture, critical labour theory, cultural studies, and activist research methodologies. His research concerns the working conditions, workplace cultures and pathways to worker organising in craft and creative industries. He's particularly interested in the emerging neo-craft economy and how its discursive positioning often masks conditions of exploitation and exclusion. He is the author of a number of journal articles and book chapters on worker organising and working conditions in cultural industries. These have appeared in *Labour/Le Travail*, the *Global Labour Journal*, *TOPIA: Canadian Journal of Cultural Studies*, and elsewhere. His research is committed to promoting the interests of workers and aiding workers' movements in building capacity for collective organising. You can learn more about Dr. Anderson and his research at <https://people.ucd.ie/Benjamin.anderson>

#### **Information on the School and How to Apply:**

UCD's School of Art History and Cultural Policy is the largest art history department in Ireland and boasts the longest-running postgraduate MA course in Arts Management & Cultural Policy in Ireland, which is also one of the most established in Europe. The successful candidate will join a thriving research community closely connected with a range of national and international museums and cultural institutions, as well as with other schools and colleges at UCD. For more information on the School of Art History and Cultural Policy, please visit <https://www.ucd.ie/arthistory/>. More information on UCD's Graduate Research programme is available here: <https://www.ucd.ie/graduatestudies/>.

#### **Timeline:**

- **Closing date:** 28 February 2025  
Applications will be reviewed by a committee at School level. Applicants may be requested to conduct a Zoom interview as part of the application process. Applicants will be informed of a decision by 15 April, at which point the successful candidate may formally apply for admission to UCD. Students will



be expected to be available to commence study in September 2025 or January 2026.

**Application Requirements:**

Please submit the following to Dr Benjamin Anderson (Benjamin.anderson@ucd.ie) by the closing date:

- Cover letter
- CV
- Writing sample
- Two academic letters of reference
- Proposal (1000-1500 words plus indicative bibliography)
- Academic transcripts (official transcripts may be requested of the successful candidate)

*\*Dr Anderson encourages prospective candidates to reach out to him prior to applying in order to assess the fit of the project with his expertise and research priorities.*

**Assessment Criteria:**

Applications will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- a) The candidate's academic track record
- b) The quality of the candidate's application for entry to the University, including the rigour and viability of the research proposal and the rationale for study
- c) Letters of recommendation
- d) Priority research areas detailed above