

Soillse PhD Scholarship in Urban Gaelic Communities 2012–13
Celtic and Gaelic, School of Humanities
Ceiltis is Gàidhlig, Sgoil nan Daonnachdan
University of Glasgow

Background

Following a successful proposal to the Scottish Funding Council, Highlands & Islands Enterprise and Bòrd na Gàidhlig, the Soillse initiative will promote an enhanced research capacity to inform public policy concerning Gaelic in Scotland. The initiative is supported by SFC's Strategic Research Development Grant Horizon Fund scheme. Activities and outputs will build upon, collaborate with, and transfer knowledge to existing efforts to maintain and revitalise Gaelic language and culture.

Soillse involves a consortium consisting of the University of the Highlands and Islands (Sabhal Mòr Ostaig and Lews Castle College), and the Universities of Aberdeen, Glasgow, and Edinburgh, who all contribute to the funding of Soillse.

The aims of Soillse are:

- To further develop a research capability in Gaelic language development for the benefit of the Highlands & Islands and beyond
- To develop a national network, bringing in new researchers, linking with international research and influencing policy.

PhD Scholarships

Four PhD scholarships, including one at Celtic and Gaelic, University of Glasgow, will be awarded in 2012 in terms of the criteria set out below. The Glasgow scholarship will cover the UK/EU rate of tuition fees and an annual stipend. The stipend is in line with the figure set by the Research Councils (£13,590 in 2012–13). All international students who apply for the scholarship must be able to demonstrate the availability of funds to meet the full overseas tuition fee.

Funding will extend for four years. Students may apply on a 1+3 or 3+1 basis, i.e. a Research Master's followed by a three-year PhD, or a three-year PhD followed by one year of postdoctoral study. Students choosing the 1+3 option will only be permitted to progress to the PhD if performance on the Research Master's is satisfactory.

Full-time applications are preferred but anyone wishing to apply on a part-time basis should contact Professor Roibeard Ó Maolaláigh (Roibeard.OMaolaláigh@glasgow.ac.uk) in the first instance.

Criteria

Applications are encouraged in relation to the following research topic

Urban Gaelic Communities and Gaelic Strategic Development

This research will endeavour to assess in detail how urban Gaelic communities can be conceptualised, described and understood, how they function, who participates in them and who does not, and how speakers locate Gaelic within their lives in a predominantly non-Gaelic environment. The project will involve a close study of at least one well-developed urban Gaelic community, ideally Glasgow. In particular, the research will place emphasis on assessing how

and in what ways initiatives to promote Gaelic may help strengthen these urban communities as part of a broader revitalisation strategy for Gaelic.

Applicants should be able to speak, read and write Gaelic. Applicants who do not currently have all of these skills will be expected to develop competence in Gaelic such that they can conduct and present academic research through the medium of Gaelic. Appropriate language training will be provided.

Informal enquiries about the award and the application procedure can be made to Professor Roibeard Ó Maolalaigh ((Roibeard.OMaolalaigh@glasgow.ac.uk).

Application Procedure

Applicants must apply for (a) postgraduate study at the University of Glasgow and (b) the scholarship.

(a) An application for postgraduate study must be submitted to the University of Glasgow by **18 May 2012**. This application must be accompanied by (1) two academic references, which will also be used in relation to the scholarship; (2) a research proposal; and (3) a recent sample of your academic writing. Please indicate on your application that the application is in relation to the Soillse project.

Applications can be made on line at the following web address:

<http://www.gla.ac.uk/postgraduate/howtoapplyforaresearchdegree/applyonline/>

(b) To apply for the scholarship, candidates should submit hard copies of the following:

- a CV including education and grades achieved to date
- a personal statement outlining why you believe you should be considered for the scholarship, highlighting your interest and ability in the field of Gaelic sociolinguistics broadly defined
- a copy of the research proposal outline document used in your application for postgraduate study at the University.

Please send completed scholarship applications to Professor Roibeard Ó Maolalaigh, Celtic and Gaelic, School of Humanities, University of Glasgow, 3 University Gardens, Glasgow G12 8QQ.

Completed applications must be received no later than **18 May 2012**.

More information

<http://www.gla.ac.uk/colleges/arts/graduateschool/prospectivestudents/researchstudy/howtoapply/>

For more detailed information about Soillse, see: <http://www.soillse.ac.uk/index-en.php>

Selection Procedure

A Selection Committee will meet before the end of May 2012 and interviews will be held in June 2012. The winner of the scholarship will be announced as soon as possible thereafter.