The Middle East and North Africa Centre at Sussex (MENACS) invites applications for the Pears Foundation PhD Scholarships, with a closing date of 26 January 2017.

**What will Pears PhD Scholars receive?**

If you are successful in winning a Pears PhD Scholarship, you will have your fees paid and receive a stipend to cover your living expenses for the three years that your degree is expected to take, with the possibility of extension for one further year. This scholarship will pay fees at the Home/EU or International rate.

**Eligibility**

The doctoral project proposed must fall into one of the Centre’s main areas of study: Middle Eastern, Israeli and North African Studies. There are no restrictions as to time period or subject area.

Students must be accepted into a PhD course in the humanities or social sciences, which include the following schools:

* English
* History, Art History and Philosophy
* Media, Film and Music
* Business, Management and Economics
* Education and Social Work
* Global Studies
* Institute of Development Studies
* Law, Politics and Sociology

A full list of PhD courses for entry in 2017 is available here: <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/study/phd/2017>

The successful candidate will have an outstanding academic background, including the methodological training and/or language skills necessary to start their research project.

Applicants must be able to commence their PhD in September 2017.

**How to apply**

If you wish to apply for a Pears PhD Scholarship you must **first** apply online for a place on a PhD course at the University of Sussex: <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/study/phd/apply>.

This application requires the following documentation:

* research proposal. See the following guidelines: <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/study/phd/apply/tips-research-degrees/research-proposal>
* undergraduate or masters degree certificate (if available)
* two academic references (one of the references must be from your most recent university)
* CV
* if your undergraduate or masters degree certificate is not written in English, you must submit a certified English translation of your certificate

To be considered for the scholarship, you must **also** submit a separate application for the scholarship using the Pears Foundation Scholarship application form.  This application will be assessed by a panel of faculty members of the university. This form will ask for the following documentation:

* research proposal (same as in step one)
* a 500-word statement of interest covering the following points:
  + why is pursuing a PhD at MENACS and the University of Sussex your first choice?
  + how will your research help MENACS achieve its goal of training the next generation of MENA experts?
  + which scholar or scholars are you interested in working with and why? (See appendix below.)

**Please note** that the (step 1) application for a PhD place must be completed by **26th January 2017**, while the (step 2) separate scholarship application must be submitted by **9th February 2017**.

Shortlisted candidates will be interviewed in person or over Skype in April 2017.

**What is MENACS?**

The Middle East and North Africa Centre at Sussex (MENACs) is an innovative and interdisciplinary centre for the study of the Middle East and North Africa. MENACS was launched in 2015-16 as the University’s focal point for engagement with the MENA region. It has unusually wide geographic scope, bringing together research stretching from North Africa to Afghanistan, and Turkey to the Indian Ocean. With over 30 full-time academics, the Centre is one of the largest of its kind in the UK. It includes academics spread from departments across the humanities and social sciences, and is especially strong in the fields of modern history and international relations. The centre’s activities address major global challenges, involve collaborations from around the world, and facilitate outstanding impact on an international level.

Research related to the Middle East and North Africa takes place primarily within the following broad themes, within which staff pursue individual research and run collaborative projects:

* Sustainability, environment, resources
* Religion, culture, translation, connection
* Nation-State (De)Formation: Geopolitics, state, society
* Arts, museums, education
* Migration, diaspora, movement
* Rights and resistance
* Conflict, security, stabilisation
* Science, technology, commerce.

Descriptions of these themes, including faculty active in each area, is available here: <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/menacs/research>

**What does MENACS have to offer PhD students?**

MENACS brings together the highest calibre postgraduate students from the UK, the MENA region, and elsewhere in the world. Our goal is to train the next generation of MENA experts in an environment focused on cross-cultural dialogue, inter-faith tolerance, and the advocacy of positive change.

MENACS enhances the already-vibrant research environment at Sussex, an environment that includes ample opportunity to develop yourself as well as your research. You will have access to the research seminars, reading groups, lectures by world-class visiting speakers organized by MENACS, your department, and other Sussex centres and networks. In addition to this, training and professional development is provided face-to-face and online by the Doctoral School as well as the Library’s Researcher Development Programme.

As the focal point for research for study and engagement with the MENA region at Sussex, MENACS will provide you with significant opportunities to advance your research and career. Our research programmes engage with academia, policy experts, and the general public to advance evidence-based, positive change and capacity-building related to the MENA region and its study. Overseas partnerships and collaborations, such as those with Center for Middle Eastern Studies at Lund University in Sweden and the Museum of Immigration History in Paris, provide you with the opportunity to gain international experience and exposure.

The centre is also well connected with UK-based associations related to the study of the MENA region, including the British Society for Middle Eastern Studies (BRISMES), the Council for British Research in the Levant (CBRL), and the British Association for Islamic Studies (BRAIS), as well as non-academic organisations such as Wilton Park, the British Council, and Chatham House. With funding from the Consortium of the Humanities and the Arts South-East England (CHASE), MENACS runs a biannual conference for UK-based PhD students working on the MENA region. More information about the centre and its activities is available on its website, [www.sussex.ac.uk/menacs](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/menacs).

**Why Sussex?**

Sussex is renowned for its path-breaking creative and interdisciplinary work whilst also achieving excellence in discipline-based research. Gaining doctoral funding at Sussex gives you access to professional training in research and public engagement. It also means joining a lively community of innovative thinkers, researchers and creative practitioners, such as writers, filmmakers, and musicians, engaged in producing exciting new work that seeks to address the challenges of a world shaped by the speed of technological innovation and global change. Doctoral students at Sussex are actively supported by the Doctoral School, which runs a year-round programme of workshops and events to help you complete your doctorate and prepare for your future career.

University of Sussex is nestled on the edge of the South Downs, on outskirts of the city of Brighton and Hove on the south coast. It is the only UK university surrounded by a national park, yet the campus is only nine minutes by train from Brighton.

Brighton and Hove is a vibrant seaside city with a diverse arts and music scene, and an eclectic mix of independent shops, bars, cafes, and restaurants. Each May the city hosts England’s biggest arts festival, the Brighton Festival, which includes theatre, music, art, and visual media by leading names from around the world. Year-round, plays, art exhibitions, gigs, and other events are put on at venues throughout the city, including at the Duke of York’s Picture House, an art house cinema which is claimed to be the oldest in the country. There are ample opportunities to watch sport, with the Brighton and Hove Albion FC (located just across the road from campus), the Sussex County Cricket Club, the Brighton Marathon, and the London to Brighton Bike Ride. The seafront and South Downs are the perfect setting for walking, fell running, sea swimming, windsurfing, kitesurfing, wakeboarding, sailing, and paddle boarding. The city’s residents are cosmopolitan and international, with a range of expat groups as well as events celebrating its diversity. There are three mosques, Catholic and Anglican Churches, a Buddhist centre, an Islamic centre, four synagogues, and Greek and Coptic Orthodox churches in Brighton.

**Appendix: MENACS faculty and research areas**

PhD students at Sussex are supervised by one or more full-time, permanent faculty members. To enable the scholarship recipient to make an excellent contribution to the fields of Middle Eastern, North African, or Israeli Studies, at least one of the supervisors much have expertise related to the MENA region.

A partial list of faculty at Sussex who fulfil both of these criteria is below. A full

list of MENACS staff, with links to their research profiles, is available here: <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/menacs/people/group/academic-faculty>.

**ART HISTORY**

**Meaghan Clarke, Senior Lecturer in Art History** (nineteenth- and twentieth-century women travelers to the Middle East and North Africa; early photography in the region)

**Liz James, Professor of Byzantine Art** (the art history and history of Byzantium, fourth-fifteenth centuries AD; Byzantium and Islam)

**HISTORY**

**Anne-Marie Angelo, Lecturer in American History** (US-MENA relations; global racial formations; visual culture; immigrants and refugees; human rights, violence and memory)

**Martin Evans**, **Professor of European History** (modern France, Algeria and Morocco; migration; post-colonial memory)

**Hilary Kalmbach**, **Lecturer in Middle Eastern History** (modern Islam and Middle Eastern history; gender; education; authority and leadership; Syria and Egypt)

**Jacob Norris**, **Lecturer in Middle Eastern History** (modern Middle Eastern history; Palestine under British Mandate; Muslims and Christians in Bethlehem; migration)

**David Tal**, **Yossi Harel Chair of Israel Studies** (military and diplomatic history of Israel; Israel between East and West; Israel-US relations)

**PHILOSOPHY**

**Antony Booth, Senior Lecturer in Philosophy** (Islamic philosophy, applied epistemology and ethics)

**ENGLISH**

**Matthew Dimmock, Professor of Early Modern Studies** (‘otherness’ and cultural, racial and religious differences, with reference to Islam and early modern Europe)

**MEDIA AND FILM**

**Alisa Lebow, Reader in Film Studies** (Jewish culture and film, Middle Eastern documentary, revolution and film, activism and documentary, queer and transgender representation)

**Alban Webb, Lecturer in Digital Humanities** (history of media, digital humanities, Cold War, cosmopolitanism)

**GEOGRAPHY**

**Michael Collyer, Professor of Geography** (migration and refugees in Morocco and the Moroccan diaspora)

**Ceri Oeppen, Lecturer in Human Geography** (migration and integration of migrants, especially related to Afghan migrants)

**ANTHROPOLOGY**

**Magnus Marsden, Professor of Social Anthropology** (Islam in Central/South Asia; Muslim diasporas in former Soviet Union)

**Filippo Osella, Professor of Anthropology and South Asian Studies**(social reproduction and stratification; popular religion (Hinduism & Islam) and reform movements; especially in South Asia and the Gulf)

**Alice Wilson, Lecturer in Social Anthropology** (political anthropology, citizenship, development, mobility forced migration, the Sahara, Oman, anthropology of the state)

**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

**Kamran Matin, Lecturer in International Relations** (international dimension of development in the context of non-western experiences of modernity, especially related to Iran, the Kurdish question)

**Fabio Petito, Senior Lecturer in International Relations** (international political theory, religions and international relations, especially with reference to Islam)

**Jan Selby, Professor of International Relations**(peace processes, environmental security, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, international relations theory)

**LAW**

**Amir Paz-Fuchs, Senior Lecturer in Law** (employment law, legal theory, social righs and social justice, sociolegal studies)

**Ahmad Ghouri, Lecturer in Commercial Law** (international commercial law, Islamic commercial law, Shariah-compliant dispute resolution, global corporate governance)

**Michael Kearney, Lecturer in Law**(public international law, including humanitarian law, criminal law and human rights; especially related to Palestine)

**SOCIOLOGY**

**June Edmunds**, **Lecturer in Sociology** (asylum seeking, citizenship, cosmopolitanism, migration, Muslims and European politics, racism, generations)

**INSTITUTE OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES**

**Mariz Tadros, Research Fellow** (politics and human development of the Middle East, especially in Egypt)

**SCIENCE AND POLICY RESEARCH UNIT (SPRU)**

**Rumy Hasan, Senior Lecturer** (critique of multiculturalism and multifaithism, Middle Eastern conflict and its impact on the west, dual identities)

**EDUCATION**

**Barbara Crossouard, Senior Lecturer in Education** (citizenship and youth, education in contexts of postcoloniality, gender, higher education, identities)

**Mario Novelli, Professor of Education** (education and peacebuilding, education and conflict, education and labour movements, global governance of education)