This studentship is one of an initial three associated with the ‘Fragmented Heritage’ project, funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council digital transformations large grant scheme. The majority of archaeological material is fragmentary. This is either by the nature of processes (stone tool production and modification), discard ritual, or by post-depositional processes. A great deal of time is invested in manually refitting material, drawing resources that would otherwise be used for more involved interpretation. Often sites or problems are too large to deal with using current techniques. The ‘Fragmented Heritage’ project aims to assist old and create new methods of refit analysis and site interpretation.

This project will involve an exploration into the range of methods used to identify the degree of post-depositional movement of archaeological and forensic material. The researcher will develop a broad understanding of existing methods and their application to case study sites (see www.fragmémentedheritage.com for site details). These methods include quantification of wear traces, refitting, artefact lay, and sedimentary studies to name a few. The primary aim is to test current and develop new methods for identifying post-depositional signature based on lithic microwear study. A key transformative aspect to this PhD will be the significance of this work to other fields including broader artefact conservation and addressing issues of applicability to forensic science (e.g., the rapid imaging and automated refit of exhibits such as glass in casework). The project will be partly experimental but will rely on the study of archaeological material from excavations currently associated with the project and previously excavated material.

Applicants are invited from researchers with a strong interest in site formation processes. Applicants should hold or be in the process of completing a Master’s degree (or equivalent) in Archaeology or a field suitable for the project.

To discuss this opportunity further please contact: Dr Adrian Evans aaevans@bradford.ac.uk

Funding and working arrangements:
The students will be registered full time at the University of Bradford. They are expected to be based in Bradford throughout the project. While in Bradford, the students will be offered the opportunity to gain teaching experience. There will also be opportunities to engage with fieldwork elements of the overall ‘fragmented heritage’ research project.

This is a fully funded studentship (fees + maintenance). Each eligible student will receive a maintenance grant of £13,726 per annum. Check eligibility here: (http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/SiteCollectionDocuments/Student-Funding-Guide.pdf)
How to Apply:

Please apply via our online application form: https://evision.brad.ac.uk/urd/sits.urd/run/siw_ipp_lgn.login?process=siw_ipp_app&code1=WEBAPP&code2=0006

In your personal statement, please identify the doctoral project(s) you wish to apply for and pay particular attention to how your skills and experience will enable you to succeed. We are happy to receive applications for both studentships, but please indicate which one would be your first choice.

Along with an application form the following supporting documents are normally required:

• Degree certificates/transcripts
• Contact details for two referees
• Evidence of English language (if required)
• A copy of your passport

There is a facility to upload these documents at the end of the process. We prefer you to submit your application form and supporting materials electronically. This will help us to process your application more rapidly. If you have any queries regarding this, please contact Anne Chanet by telephoning 01274 235949 or via e-mail at a.chanet@bradford.ac.uk.

You must satisfy the eligibility criteria, both academic and residential, which are set by the AHRC for all of its postgraduate funding schemes. For information on these criteria, and on the nature and purposes of the studentships provided by the AHRC, please consult section 7 of the AHRC Student Funding Guide (http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/SiteCollectionDocuments/Student-Funding-Guide.pdf)

Closing date: 23rd December 2013 at 5pm. Interviews will be held w/o 20th January 2014. The successful candidate will negotiate an appropriate start day between February and October 2014.