



**Economic and Social Research Council**  
**North West Social Science Doctoral Training Partnership**



**Use of ESRC Datasets - Supervisor Led Competition**  
**Studentship Application Guidance**  
**For October 2019 entry**

## Introduction

North West Social Science Doctoral Training Partnership (NWSSDTP) is running an additional studentship funding competition in 2019, to encourage projects that use ESRC Datasets.

Applications are invited from prospective supervisors at any of the four constituent universities (Keele, Lancaster, Liverpool or Manchester). Successful applicants will then be invited to recruit a candidate to undertake the proposed projects.

The appointed candidates must then be registered on a programme and pathway eligible for ESRC funding: <https://nwssdtp.ac.uk/how-to-apply/pathways/>

## Use of ESRC Datasets

Use of ESRC Datasets has been identified by the ESRC as a Priority Area, and as such the NWSSDTP has four studentships per annum to award in this area.

The NWSSDTP is also seeking projects that are undertaking Longitudinal Data Analysis of ESRC Datasets, as this has been identified as a Specialised Training Route within the Priority Area. Any candidates found eligible for LDA will receive an additional £3,000 per annum enhanced stipend.

## Eligible ESRC Datasets

The ESRC define the datasets eligible for this Priority Area as follows:

### ***Big Data***

- Administrative Data Research Network
- Business and Local Government Data Research Centre
- Consumer Data Research Centre
- Urban Big Data Centre

### ***Biosocial***

- Understanding Society Biosocial Sweep
- 1958 National Child Development Study Biosocial Sweep
- English Longitudinal Study of Ageing Genome-Wide Association Study
- Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children

### ***Election***

- British Election Study
- British Election Study Ethnic Minority Surveys
- Scottish Election Studies
- Welsh Election Studies
- Northern Ireland Election Study
- Scottish Referendum Study
- Local Election Studies Database

### ***Employment***

- Skills and Employment Survey Series
- Workplace Employment Relations Surveys

### ***International Comparative***

- European Social Survey
- Harmonised European Time Use Study 2000
- International Social Survey Programme
- Multinational Time Use Study

### ***Linguistics***

- British National Corpus
- British Sign Language Corpus

### ***Longitudinal***

- British Household Panel Survey
- Understanding Society
- 1958 National Child Development Survey
- British Cohort Study 1970
- Next Steps (Longitudinal Study of Young Persons in England)
- Millennium Cohort Study
- UK Census Longitudinal Studies
- English Longitudinal Study of Ageing

### ***Qualitative***

- Timescapes
- Poverty and Social Exclusion Qualitative Surveys
- Ritual, Community and Conflict Ethnographic Dataset on Ritual
- Access Research Knowledge Qualitative Archives on Ageism and Conflict

### ***Other***

- Poverty and Social Exclusion in the UK: Research Surveys 2012
- Northern Ireland Life and Times
- Kids' Life and Times
- Young Life and Times Survey

## **Recruiting a Student**

If a proposal is successful in the first phase of the competition, the supervisor will be invited to recruit a student to undertake the project.

It is permissible for a postgraduate candidate to be connected to the project from the outset, but the candidate's details must be noted on the Studentship Application Form and a CV, two academic references and academic transcripts for the candidate should be submitted.

If a specific candidate was not mentioned on the Studentship Application Form, a formal recruitment process must be undertaken to find a candidate.

NWSSDTP Studentships can be advertised on FindAPhD.com or jobs.ac.uk. Availability of funding for such adverts should be discussed with Schools/Faculties in advance, as there is not funding available from the NWSSDTP for advertising studentships. Academics should also utilise their own contacts and disciplinary mailing lists for publicity purposes.

Please note that it is mandatory for the Institutional Pathway Representative to be involved in the selection process. Once a suitable student is recruited, the academic lead (primary supervisor) should complete a Nomination Form in full, in liaison with the candidate. This form should then be signed by the overall Pathway Lead and submitted to the NWSSDTP by the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019, to confirm the studentship has been awarded. This nomination form needs to be submitted in all cases, even when a named student has been detailed on the original application form.

Should an academic applicant be successful in gaining an award but fail to recruit a suitable candidate, the NWSSDTP has the right to withdraw the award from the project and potentially reallocate the funds.

## Studentship Structure

These studentships can be held either on a full time or part time basis, and can be structured as a 1+3, 2+2 or +3 studentship.

Please note, it is the responsibility of the academic applicant and the Institutional Pathway Representative to ensure that the postgraduate candidate who will undertake the project has sufficient formal research training, as defined by the ESRC on page 7 - 11 of the [ESRC Postgraduate Training and Development Guidelines](#) document, prior to recruitment for a +3 studentship.

## Student Eligibility

If a project is successful and the applicants are invited to recruit a student to undertake the project, please be aware that usual NWSSDTP studentship eligibility rules will apply.

### **Academic eligibility:**

For all awards, candidates must have qualifications of the standard of a good undergraduate honours degree at first or upper second class level. For +2 or +3 studentships, the student must also have a suitable Master's degree.

In the majority of cases, candidates will have undertaken an undergraduate course and/or Master's course at a recognised UK higher education institution. However, some may have qualifications from outside the UK, or be able to offer a combination of qualifications and/or experience. In both cases, it will be necessary to ascertain whether these qualifications can be equated to an honours degree, and at what level. The ESRC bases its assessments of qualifications attained outside the UK on the British Council's NARIC guide. For non-UK qualifications transcripts in English as well as details in the original language must be provided with the application form.

Candidates must be planning to study in an ESRC recognised pathway.

Please note that the supervisory fit of your prospective supervision team will be taken into consideration when the application is assessed during the competition.

### **Residential eligibility:**

The legal basis for defining residence eligibility for postgraduate training awards is set down in the Education (Fees and Awards) Regulations 1991. The guidance below is based on the Regulations and on guidance produced by the Department for Education and Skills (DfES):

Candidates for awards must have a relevant connection with the United Kingdom. A relevant connection may be established if, at the start of the course:

- The student has been ordinarily resident in the UK throughout the 3-year period preceding the date of application for an award, *and*
- Has not been resident in the UK, during any part of that 3-year period wholly or mainly for the purposes of full-time education (EU students – see below) *and*
- Has settled status in the UK within the meaning of the Immigration Act 1971 (i.e. is not subject to any restriction on the period for which he/she may stay).

Candidates who meet all three of the above criteria may apply for a *full award*.

A relevant connection may be established for an **EU student** if the student has been resident in the UK throughout the 3-year period preceding the start of the course, even if for purposes of full-time education. EU students in this situation may apply for a *full award*. EU Students who have not been ordinarily resident in the UK for the last three years may apply for a *fees only* award.

**Non-EU students** who have not been ordinarily resident in the UK for the last three years are not eligible to apply.

The above criteria does not apply to applicants to the Economics pathway or those whose project is deemed to employ Advanced Quantitative Methods - such candidates are eligible to apply for a full award whatever their residential status.

For more information on residential eligibility please see the ESRC Postgraduate Funding Guide at <http://www.esrc.ac.uk/skills-and-careers/studentships/esrc-students/>

## **Financial Basis of the Studentship**

### **An NWSSDTP Studentship consists of:**

- Payment of academic fees, at the standard UKRI rate
- Maintenance Stipend (£15,009 in 2019)
- Access to a Research Training Support Grant (RTSG) for reimbursement of research related expenses including - but not limited to - conference attendance, training courses and UK fieldwork.
- Opportunity to apply for additional funding towards:

- Overseas Fieldwork (only if the need for overseas fieldwork has been detailed at the application stage)
- Overseas Institutional Visits
- Internships

## Guidance Notes for Application Form

### 1. Supervisor's Details

The application should be submitted by the academic who will be the first supervisor on the proposed project, not the prospective student.

Please detail which of the 19 [NWSSDTP Pathways](#) the project comes under. Please detail the University (Keele University, Lancaster University, University of Liverpool or University of Manchester) and the Faculty/School/Institute of the applicant (as relevant).

### 2. Project Details

If known, please indicate whether the proposed project will be 1+3 or +3 in structure.

Please note, it is the responsibility of the academic applicant and the Institutional Pathway Representative to ensure that the postgraduate candidate who will undertake the project has sufficient formal research training, as defined by the ESRC on page 7 - 11 of the [ESRC Postgraduate Training and Development Guidelines](#) document, prior to recruitment for a +3 studentship.

#### Project Title

Please detail the title of the proposed project.

#### Project Proposal

Please outline the overall goals and timeline of the proposed research project.

The panel will have the discretion to 'mark down' an application where the project proposal is not clear and concise. The NWSSDTP reserve the right to disqualify proposals that exceed the word limit. It is also important that applicants give a detailed account of probable methodology that will be employed and the timetable for the research, so that the panel can assess whether or not the proposed research is feasible in the time scale given.

It is also important to make clear the social science content of the proposal, to enable the panel to make a clear decision that the field of study falls within the remit of the NWSSDTP.

It is expected that the description should include:

- The research questions being asked

This should be well developed in terms of the research questions which will be asked and the approach and techniques to be used. It should be achievable within the proposed timescale (i.e. three years funding plus one year for submission of the thesis).

- How the project will be approached, with particular reference to the methodologies and techniques which may be employed

The methodologies/techniques and planned timescale should be appropriate to the project so that the outcomes will have wider relevance than purely addressing the needs of the non-academic partner.

- The anticipated outcomes from the project, in terms of its contribution to knowledge and understanding, new methodologies and techniques, data etc

The project should contribute to the successful creation, development and application of new techniques or ways of working, or relate to the broader environment in a way that improves the effectiveness and efficiency of individuals and organisations. It should contribute to the ESRC's mission to provide trained social scientists that meet the needs of users and beneficiaries, thereby contributing to the economic competitiveness of the United Kingdom, the effectiveness of public services and policy, and the quality of life. It should also fulfil the aim of a collaborative studentship in providing a real opportunity for a student to gain first-hand experience of work outside the academic environment.

- Plans for dissemination of outcomes

The completed research should be published as widely as possible, to both academic and non-academic audiences.

### **3. Research Training and Support Needs**

Please give details of any identified training needs for prospective candidates which will equip and enable them to undertake the proposed research project.

Please clearly indicate whether the project will require fieldwork abroad or difficult language training during the doctoral programme. Please indicate the destination and the duration of fieldwork if known at this stage.

Please indicate whether the project is likely to require sourcing additional funding (£1000 or more) for the purchase of specialist equipment, specific software or access to datasets, without which the project could not be completed.

### **4. Use of ESRC Datasets**

Please detail the ESRC Datasets the project will utilise and how these will be used.

If you wish the application to be considered for the Longitudinal Data Analysis enhanced stipend, please refer to the Specialised Training Route guidance [here](#).

### **5. CASE or Collaboration**

Please only complete this section if your project incorporates a CASE or a collaborative element with a non-HEI partner organisation.

A letter of support from the partner, which briefly outlines the nature of the collaboration (corresponding with what has been outlined on the form) should be included. If no contact has been made with a partner, please do not complete this section. Contributions for a collaborating partner can be in cash or in kind.

There is no need to complete a separate CASE Studentship Application Form.

## 6. Recruitment and Selection Process

Detail the procedure you intend to undertake for recruiting a suitable student, should the proposed project be successful. It is permissible to already have a student in mind at the proposal stage. If there is already a student in mind for the project, this student should be named on the application form at this stage and a CV, two references and an academic transcript for the nominated candidate should be provided. If a student is not named on this form, then the project lead must go through an advertising and recruitment process if successful.

Please note that it is mandatory for the Institutional Pathway Representative to be involved in the selection process and the Overall Pathway Lead to sign off on the choice of candidate. Please refer to the Student Eligibility section above when considering your recruitment strategy.

## 7. Acknowledgment

Please sign and date the application form. Electronic signatures are sufficient.

### Schedule

