



Admission Statement for 2019/2020 Entry

General Criteria and Principles

- The studentships are awarded on merit and strategic fit with the aims of the University, the SWDTP and those of the discipline.
- Given the importance of ESRC Completion Rates, it is essential that projects are deemed as being achievable within three years and complete within four years (or part time equivalent).
- Students will not already hold a doctorate or equivalent qualification, and will not normally have commenced a PhD. All students will commence their studies from the beginning of the programme.
- It is important that any training needs for the student can be met by the discipline / SWDTP.
- There should be resources available in the discipline to support the research proposal, including the provision of suitable supervisory team including experienced academic staff.
- There must be a strong strategic fit with the priorities of the SWDTP (for entry in 2019-20 this entails a strong collaborative element or demonstration of clear potential in a collaborative context).
- For the Economics pathway (UoBristol, UoBath and UoExeter) and the Advanced Quantitative Methods (UoBristol, UoBath and UoExeter), international candidates can be considered but the ESRC have stated that a limit of up to 35% of students in these two pathways can be given a full award – so we would expect that only 1 would be successful in each pathway, depending upon the open competition results. For all other pathways only home status (i.e. UK and EU) students can be considered, although in most cases EU students will receive a fees only award, unless they meet the ESRC Residential Guidance - see “Annex 1: Residential guidelines” in the “ESRC Postgraduate Funding Guide”, linked from <https://esrc.ukri.org/skills-and-careers/studentships/prospective-students/>

Entry Requirements

The SWDTP upholds the principles of equality and diversity, respect and dignity. Candidates are not discriminated against on the grounds of race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, religion or belief, disability, health or age.

Candidates for a +3 studentship should have:

- completed, or be due to complete an ESRC-accredited or an equivalent research Masters* with a significant element of research training. Candidates may be asked for further information to determine the relevance of the content covered.

** An equivalent research Masters is defined as including significant social sciences research design, quantitative and qualitative research methods elements. The transcript will need to show that **a minimum of a third of the taught stage of the programme entailed research methods elements** – which should normally be divided roughly equally between social sciences research design, quantitative and qualitative research methods elements – and that there is also a Dissertation. For students who have undertaken a Masters outside the UK we will look for appropriate equivalencies. All awards are subject to ratification by the “Awards and Ratification Committee”, who shall have the authority to reconsider the equivalence of any Masters awards.*



- achieved a current average grade of their Masters (at the point of application) normally of at least Merit (60%) grade. Successful candidates must ultimately achieve BOTH an overall average of at least 60% across the taught units/modules AND at least 60% for the dissertation component as a condition of their funding.

Holders of Masters degrees that are not considered equivalent (as above), must apply for the 1+3 award.

In the case of a 1+3 application, continuation of funding from the '1' stage to the '+3' stage of the programme will be subject to achieving 60% across the taught units / modules **AND** 60% for the dissertation component. Students who fail to achieve these conditions may have their funding terminated and may be required to refund any money paid to them during the PhD portion of the programme.

Types of Research Proposal

The ESRC continue to emphasise the importance of **collaboration with non-academic public, private and civil-society sector organisations**. As such, the SWDTP is required to achieve a minimum of 30% collaboration (in practice the SWDTP target is nearer to 50%). There are no prescribed boundaries determining the nature of collaboration, but DTPs should demonstrate that studentships are developed in collaboration with other organisations and should involve substantive user engagement and knowledge-exchange activity as part of the award. Collaboration <https://esrc.ukri.org/collaboration/>, Knowledge exchange activity <https://esrc.ukri.org/collaboration/guidance-for-collaboration/>, Impact <https://esrc.ukri.org/research/impact-toolkit/> and Evaluation and Impact <https://esrc.ukri.org/research/research-and-impact-evaluation/>.

However, the ESRC also encourages ambitious and novel research proposals addressing new concepts and techniques with the potential for significant scientific or societal and economic impact – as can be evidenced through calls such as <https://esrc.ukri.org/files/funding/funding-opportunities/research-grants-open-call-call-specification/>

The SWDTP therefore encourages two **complementary** types of proposal:

- Collaborative, Impact and Engagement Elements** - important factors include relevant external partner identified, collaboration plan (with partner), impact and awareness of opportunities and challenges that external collaborations bring.
- Ambitious and Novel Research Proposal** - important factors include novelty/fresh ideas, new concepts / techniques with the potential for significant scientific or societal and economic impact, innovative or even untested methods within the context of the particular project, involve multiple or unusual disciplinary combinations both within and beyond the social sciences, and accessing difficult/challenging data or generating new data in challenging settings.

There is a **1000-word** limit for research proposals. NOTE: We allow a tolerance of up to 10% over. Any work which is more than 10% over will be considered in the scoring, using the Pathway Lead's academic judgement.

Additional Information Required

Students are able to claim additional funding during their studies for the following:

- difficult language training,
- overseas fieldwork
- overseas institutional visits

NOTE: Additional funding for Difficult Language Training and Overseas Fieldwork can only be claimed if details are outlined in the original research proposal at the time of studentship application. There is some flexibility with regards to additional funding for Overseas Institutional Visits as these opportunities might not be known at the point of application. **The research proposal should therefore include such details.**



What else do I need to know?

Timeline Overview

Tuesday 29 th January 2019 12 noon GMT	Funding application deadline
w/c 18 th February 2019	Interview invitations sent out
w/c 4 th March 2019	Interviews Note: this may not be at the institution to which you applied
From Friday 29 th March 2019	Offers to be sent out by institution to which you applied Note: you may receive a letter stating you are on the reserve list in which case you may not hear if you have an offer until after 26 th April 2019
Friday 26 th April	Deadline for studentship offer acceptance if you have had an offer

How will my proposal be scored?

Please see pages 4&5 for the SWDTP Selection Record and Guidelines

Where can I find copies of the SWDTP related forms? (Note: follow institutional requirements for all information that needs to be submitted)

<https://www.swdtp.ac.uk/home-page-2/prospectivestudents/>

Institutional contacts for generic application enquiries

Bath	Isla Holmes	dc-admissions-hss@bath.ac.uk
Bristol	Nicola Williams	swdtp-bristol@bristol.ac.uk
Exeter	Elizabeth Noon	doctoral.college@exeter.ac.uk
Plymouth	Sarah Kearns	sarah.kearns@plymouth.ac.uk
UWE	Vicky Nash	victoria.nash@uwe.ac.uk



SWDTP Selection Record and Guidelines

NAME:	PATHWAY:	INSTITUTION:
<p>PLEASE STATE IF THIS IS A POTENTIAL ESRC STEER CANDIDATE (NOTE: these could be in any of the 17 SWDTP pathways): <i>*See detailed advice from ESRC re cross council steers and the ESRC data set list in Annex G</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESRC dataset? YES/NO If so, which one: <insert name> • Cross council element and supervision? If so which council: 		
SHORTLIST - Score	INTERVIEW - Score	PATHWAY - Ranking
Academic Record (see guidance note 1 below)	Academic Excellence	Total Score
Marks profile (e.g., strong dissertation mark)	Comprehension relevant disciplines/topics	
Good references	Articulation and discussion of relevant theory	Pathway Rank:
Research Proposal	Research Potential	
An original contribution achievable within 4 years	Understanding of the demands of the project	Reasons for Ranking:
Clear understanding of the field	Clear articulation of appropriate research question	
Outlines appropriate methods	Awareness of methodological demands & needs	
Potential for Impact	Understanding of relevance of research impact	
Outlines governance/ethical issues	Awareness of ethical/governance constraints	
EITHER Collaborative, Impact and Engagement Elements	EITHER Collaborative, Impact and Engagement Elements	
Level of user engagement	Articulation of excellent engagement potential	
Plan for collaboration with partner	Awareness of collaboration opportunities/challenges	



Understanding of the challenges of collaboration		Relevant interpersonal skills		
OR Ambitious and Novel Research Elements		OR Ambitious and Novel Research Proposal		
New concepts, ideas or techniques		Convinces on novelty of contribution		
Innovative or even untested methods		Discussion of new concepts and techniques		
Involves multiple or unusual disciplinary combinations		Articulation of interdisciplinary perspectives		
Shortlist Score		Interview Score		
<u>SHORTLIST – Narrative</u> e.g. where selecting a lower-ranked 1+3 candidate (vs a +3 candidate), rationale as to their potential		<u>INTERVIEW - Narrative</u>		