



Pathway Lead Role Descriptor

Introduction

The ESRC's South West Doctoral Training Partnership (SWDTP) comprises 14 disciplinary pathways and 4 interdisciplinary pathways. Each of these has a nominated Pathway Lead from each of the partners where the pathway is delivered.

Pathway Leads are central to SWDTP's mission to offer an inclusive, and collaborative environment for PGR funding, support, and training; and to promote, share, and deliver best practice across our partner institutions and wider networks.

Key Responsibilities

Key responsibilities of Pathway Leads are to:

- Together with other colleagues, as appropriate, oversee the provision of supervision arrangements within the pathway to ensure that SWDTP-funded students have appropriate supervisory support from supervision teams that hold relevant expertise and meet the SWDTP requirements in terms of expertise. For student admissions and entry requirements, [click here](#).
- Ensure that supervisors of SWDTP-funded PGRs are aware of SWDTP supervisor training requirements and expectations that they regularly conduct development needs analysis with supervisees, especially where these are additional to normal institutional requirements.
- Advise the Director of Studies and lead tutors responsible for designing and delivering Masters level research training associated with the pathway, including by referring them to the most up to date [ERSC PGR training guidelines](#).
- Represent supervisors within the departments associated with the pathway in your institution by communicating feedback on SWDTP processes, events and activities with the Institutional Academic Lead or the Academic Advisory Board.
- Maintain an oversight of PGRs' experience within the pathway in your institution, report problems and from time to time contribute suggestions to the [Institutional Academic Lead \(IAL\)](#) or the [Academic Advisory Board \(AAB\)](#). This includes identifying and communicating gaps, failings or shortfalls with respect to research training, supervision arrangements, support for [PGRs' wellbeing](#), provision for professional development and fulfilling our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion commitments.
- Represent your institution on the pathway and liaise with the Pathway Leads in other institutions to develop opportunities for collaborative research training initiatives and cohort-building across the pathway. This includes promoting funding available to Pathway Leads, other academics and PGRs, such as [Higher-Level Training](#) and [collaboration funding](#).
- Take part in the recruitment and selection of SWDTP funded students. The requirements for this area of work will vary depending on the process in place at the partner university, and these may include:
 - Supporting professional services colleagues in responding to queries from prospective applicants, in particular in relation to advising on research expertise for proposed projects and possible supervision arrangements.
 - Undertaking short listing and interviewing of applicants and making recommendations for nominations of studentship awards to the SWDTP Awards Ratification Committee.



-
- From time to time, contribute to recruitment and selection for other pathways, for example, by acting as an independent chair for interview panels.
 - Offer support and advice to SWDTP funded students throughout their study. This will include directing students and academic colleagues to appropriate information sources, such as the [SWDTP website](#) and [Student Handbook](#), for information on opportunities such as the [Overseas Fieldwork Allowance](#), [Overseas Institutional Visits](#), [Difficult Language Training](#), [Placements & Internships](#) and other [collaborative and cohort activities](#).
 - Attend SWDTP meetings within your institution and, at least once a year, at a partner institution, such as induction sessions with students, networking events, staff information days, training and development sessions, workshops.

Indicative Workload Allocation

- 60 hours per annum - this has been agreed by each of your institutions, and should be included in your workload calculations by your institution



SWDTP Governance Diagram

