**Annex A – Studentship Application Form for 2024 Entry**

**IMPORTANT:**

**The closing date for applications to all our partner institutions is 12.00 (Noon) GMT Friday 12th January 2024**

**However, the University of Bristol requires applicants first to be in receipt of an admissions offer to study for a PhD. The closing date to apply for study at Bristol may be as early as the beginning of December 2023. Please contact the relevant pathway lead for further information, a list of contacts can be found on this page** [Pathway Leads and Supervisors | SWDTP](https://www.swdtp.ac.uk/information-for-academic-colleagues/pathway-leads-and-supervisors/)

Thank you for interest in the SWDTP. We are delighted that you are considering applying to study with us. As an organisation, we are interested in recruiting a diverse range of students from across our eight partner institutions and 18 disciplinary and interdisciplinary pathways. To help you understand what we are looking for in a successful application, guidance can be found on page 4. You should also refer to our Guide to Applying to the South West Doctoral Training Partnership at [How do I Apply for a Studentship? | SWDTP](https://www.swdtp.ac.uk/prospective-students-and-fellows/how-do-i-apply-for-a-studentship/).

In completing this form, **it is important that you do not exceed any of the stated word limits and that you answer all the questions truthfully.** If not, your application is likely to be rejected or your funding withdrawn at any time in the future. Your research proposal must be substantively your own work and must neither plagiarise any other person’s work nor be written by anyone else on your behalf. This extends to using ChatGPT or other artificial intelligence tools to write substantial elements of your research proposal. You may use grammar and spelling checking tools and we allow potential supervisors to read, comment and provide feedback on draft research proposals, if they are willing and have the time to do so. We also recognise that some research is collaborative and co-produced with an external partner that may provide guidance in framing what sort of research questions are of interest to them and what resources they have available to support the research (e.g. access to data, archives or policy networks). There is a declaration at the end of this form allowing you to say what guidance you received in writing the proposal. Please be aware that we can check what you have written with other parties.

The SWDTP’s default rule is to not allow applications from candidates who have already started a PhD programme (either presently or in the past). If you feel you have a case for which an exception might be made, then this must be discussed with the SWDTP Director well in advance of preparing an application by contacting [swdtp-enquiries@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:swdtp-enquiries@bristol.ac.uk).

We only score and assess applications based on section A2 of this form. However, other sections must also be completed and submitted at the time of the application.

If you have any questions, please email the relevant institutional contact, listed below, in the first instance or ask your proposed supervisor. If they are unable to answer your query, please contact [swdtp-enquiries@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:swdtp-enquiries@bristol.ac.uk).

We wish you every success with your application.

**Institutional contacts:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Bath | [dc-admissions-hss@bath.ac.uk](mailto:dc-admissions-hss@bath.ac.uk) |
| Bristol | [fssl-pgr@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:fssl-pgr@bristol.ac.uk) |
| Exeter | [pgrenquiries@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:pgrenquiries@exeter.ac.uk) |
| Plymouth | [doctoralcollege@plymouth.ac.uk](mailto:doctoralcollege@plymouth.ac.uk) |
| UWE | [Graduateschool@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:Graduateschool@uwe.ac.uk) |
| Bath Spa | [pgradmissions@bathspa.ac.uk](mailto:pgradmissions@bathspa.ac.uk) |
| Bournemouth | [pgradmissions@bournemouth.ac.uk](mailto:pgradmissions@bournemouth.ac.uk) |
| Plymouth Marjon | [pgr@marjon.ac.uk](mailto:pgr@marjon.ac.uk) |

**(A1) About You**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** (as recorded on your Passport) | **Application number** *(if you have one)* | |
|  |  | |
| **Preferred name** (if different from above) |  | |
| **E-Mail Address** |  | |
| **Alternative E-Mail Address** (if available) |  | |
| **Nationality** and *(if different)* **Country of Domicile** *(where you live)* | | |
| -----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------  *International students, please note: the ESRC will fund international students at the home fee and stipend rate only. Whilst we anticipate that the difference between the UK rate and the international fee will be waived by our partner institutions at no cost to you, we recommend that you seek confirmation from the institution that this will be the case, as the SWDTP is not liable for and is unable to pay the difference should it arise. Please also note that we are not permitted to pay for travel costs, visa fees and other associated costs with moving to the UK to study (e.g., immigration health surcharge to access the National Health Service) and that there may be restrictions on who can travel to the UK with you, especially if you need to study for a Masters year. We recommend contacting the institution to which you are applying if you have queries about this.* | | |
| **University and Pathway to which you are applying** ([ESRC funded studentships | SWDTP](https://www.swdtp.ac.uk/prospective-students-and-fellows/esrc-funded-studentships/)) | | |
|  | | |
| **Have you applied to any other Pathways or Universities in the SWDTP?** | | YES / NO |
| *…if yes, please list which Pathway and to which institution(s) you have applied below*  -----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------  *-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------*  *Please note that the maximum number of applications you can make to the SWDTP in any one year is two. These may consist of:*   * *two applications to the same Pathway in different institutions (e.g. Education at Bath Spa and at Plymouth Marjon; or, another example, Psychology at Bournemouth and at Exeter);* * *two applications to different Pathways in the same institution (e.g. both Human Geography and Psychology at Plymouth); or,* * *two applications to different Pathways at different institutions (e.g. Education at Bath and Management and Business Studies at UWE Bristol).*   ***However, you can only make one application to any one Pathway in any one institution (you cannot, for example, make two separate applications to Economics at the University of Bristol).*** | | |
| **Are you applying for a full-time or part-time studentship? (Note PT is at a minimum of 50%)** | | |
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| **Do you have a Masters qualification?** | | YES / NO |
| *…if yes, please provide the name of the Masters programme, awarding institution and year of qualification. Please do not provide any further information (e.g. do not include your grade).*  -------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------- | | |

**(A2) About the Proposed Research**

Guidance notes:

* It is important that your research proposal is substantively your own work and that it neither plagiarises any other person’s work nor has been written on your behalf.
* We strongly recommend that you read and are guided by our scoring criteria, Annex C, which can be found at [Pathway Leads and Supervisors | SWDTP](https://www.swdtp.ac.uk/information-for-academic-colleagues/pathway-leads-and-supervisors/). There are examples of previously funded research proposals at [How do I Apply for a Studentship? | SWDTP](https://www.swdtp.ac.uk/prospective-students-and-fellows/how-do-i-apply-for-a-studentship/). We do not suggest that you simply mimic those as there is no one model template for a strong application. However, you may find them useful to look at.
* We do not set restrictions on the types of research that are eligible for funding (e.g. quantitative or qualitative, or empirical or purely theoretical), provided they meet the remit of the social sciences. In case of doubt, we will refer to the definitions at [What is social science? – UKRI](https://www.ukri.org/who-we-are/esrc/what-is-social-science/) and at [What is Social Science? – Academy of Social Sciences (acss.org.uk)](https://acss.org.uk/what-is-social-science/).
* Our primary funder is the ESRC ([Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) – UKRI](https://www.ukri.org/councils/esrc/)) but we also fund interdisciplinary research. For those and for applications to interdisciplinary pathways, there must be a clear case for why the research should be considered interdisciplinary. The interdisciplinarity may arise in the cross-cutting nature of the research topic, theorisations and/or methods employed.
* A good research proposal will provide a clear indication of the research potential, demonstrating understanding of the relevant field, the potential for an original contribution within it, consideration of relevant past research, and, where relevant, a close fit to the strategic priorities of the ESRC, the chosen institution and/or an external partner. It will also have clearly articulated research questions, be conversant with relevant theories and/or methods, and, in the ‘impact potential’ box, demonstrate sound pathways to impact.
* For collaborative research, there is additional space on the application form to establish the relevance of the external partner(s) identified, the collaboration plans with the partner(s), and awareness of the opportunities and challenges external collaborations can bring and how those can be managed.
* For all types of research, the strength of the research proposal can be enhanced through: novelty and fresh ideas; new concepts, techniques and/or domains of application; innovative methods or theories within the context of the particular project; involving multiple or unusual disciplinary combinations both within and beyond the social sciences, or through collaboration and the support of an external stakeholder/partner; through clear potential for impact (academic, social or economic); and/or accessing difficult or challenging data, knowledge or information, or generating these in challenging settings, but with realistic expectations about the feasibility and safety of the research, researcher and any research participants.
* The research proposal should show clear understanding of the demands of the project, demonstrating a clear plan for completing the research within the duration of the funding period and doing the most it can to avoid any ‘overrun’ into an unfunded period of study. The ESRC expectation is for submission within the funded period.
* For some proposals, greater consideration of ethical issues and constraints on the project will be paramount. You may wish to refer to [Research ethics guidance – ESRC – UKRI](https://www.ukri.org/councils/esrc/guidance-for-applicants/research-ethics-guidance/). For all proposals, do not assume that the ethics of research are irrelevant to your proposal – they always are.
* Whilst we are keen to receive applications that fit within the strategic steers (below), we are also keen to receive proposals for other areas of research. We do not recommend trying to fit a research proposal into a strategic steer if it does not really do so or is not where you interest lies.

**Additional Guidance about Strategic Steers:**

**Steer 1 – Data Skills**

The focus of this steer is developing researchers with the skills to fully exploit the increasing volumes of large and complex data for social research purposes. The steer includes survey data and ‘big data’ (social media, administrative, transactional and geospatial data). These studentships can use qualitative and/or quantitative approaches and will provide opportunity for students to develop advanced data skills throughout their studentship. Applications are encouraged that access new forms of data previously not routinely available, such as administrative data and unstructured commercial data (such as loyalty card databases), as well as data created through digital interactions between people, people and organisations, and interactions with urban environments (such as transport footfall data). Projects in this steer are likely to demonstrate the ability to engineer data together from a range of sources, understand caveats such as potential biases (particularly where data are linked), check and monitor data integrity, as well as curate data and write efficient statistical programme code to ensure that research outcomes can be robustly peer reviewed, and, with a focus on reproducibility, consider how these data pipelines can be shared again in the future. This steer is towards data science and/or digital methods but should not be regard as simply quantitative. Applications from qualitative domains are welcomed and encouraged – the data might include imagery, textual or aural data, for example. **Applicants that wish to be considered for the Data Skills steer may fit within our Sociotechnical Futures and Digital Methods pathway but are not restricted to being so.** **Applications are welcome from any of our disciplinary or interdisciplinary pathways at any of our eight partner institutions, except for Advanced Quantitative Methods (AQM).**

**Steer 2 – Advanced Quantitative Methods (AQM) and its distinction from Data Skills**

Advanced Quantitative Methods (AQM) focuses on methodological development for quantitative social science, including original applications of cutting-edge (i.e. advanced) methods to topics of relevance to social science. Whereas the Data Skills steer focuses on using and making usable new and/or unconventional sources of digital data (either quantitative or qualitative), thereby showcasing the utility of those data for social scientific research, AQM’s focus is less on operationalising or drawing knowledge from specific data pipelines but, instead, on developing/applying advanced quantitative methods that have the potential for broader utility across the social sciences. That development can involve directly advancing or refining the method itself (with a clear social scientific purpose in mind) or tackling how to apply and therefore demonstrate its value to a particular research topic / area of research. As such, the methods should not be conceived as limited to only particular data sets, data linkages or specific instances of quantitative information (although their development, testing and/or application may be) but as ‘portable’ – methods that will be useful to and can operate across a range of data sets and disciplinary domains. In broad terms, the *Data Skills* steer will typically focus on social scientific applications of data and data science – the data are core, within a social science setting. For *AQM*, it is the method that is central, typically drawing on statistical, mathematical, econometric and/or computational modelling (including process modelling, as well as machine learning and AI) to develop and/or apply more general methods and techniques relevant to the social sciences, although this distinction is neither absolute nor exhaustive. For example, A project that uses consumer data to visualise consumer behaviours using an established mapping technique might be regarded as Data Skills. A project that develops or applies a new method for handling and visualising multi-dimensional social data, as AQM. Critically, AQM is an interdisciplinary pathway so applications should demonstrate the interdisciplinary nature or potential of the proposed methods and research, as well as demonstrating either methodological advancement or a novel application of a method that is genuinely advanced for the disciplinary context. It is not sufficient for the method just to be quantitative: more routine, standard and disciplinary-focused applications of quantitative methods should be directed towards one of our various disciplinary pathways and not AQM. **Applicants that wish to be considered for the AQM steer must apply to the Advanced Quantitative Methods pathway at one of the Universities of Bath, Bristol, Exeter and Plymouth. Applicants who apply to the AQM pathway are not eligible to be considered for the Data Skills steer.**

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| **Title of Proposed Research** | | | |
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| **Proposed Lead supervisor** | | | |
| *The Lead supervisor must be employed at one of the SWDTP’s partner institutions – Bath, Bristol, Exeter, Plymouth, UWE, Bath Spa, Bournemouth or Plymouth Marjon – and that institution must offer the SWDTP Pathway to which you are applying. You are encouraged to search the database of potential supervisors that can be found at* [Potential Supervisor Database | SWDTP](https://www.swdtp.ac.uk/supervisor-database/)  Name of Lead Supervisor:  School or department:  University: | | | |
| **Research Proposal** | | | |
| *Please outline your research proposal and plans here. These should include a project title, a context/rationale for doing the research, aims and objectives, reference to a relevant literature, an overview of the methods and/or theories to be employed, consideration of any data that will be collected or utilised, or of fieldwork that will be undertaken, ethical concerns and issues and how they will be navigated, and a timeline for completing the research within the funded period.*  *IMPORTANT:* ***There is a strict 1300-word limit, fully inclusive of everything except references****. This includes all the written text, quotes, in-line citations, section headers, captions, the contents of tables and any foot-/endnotes. Each figure/graphic should be counted as equivalent to 200 words of the 1300-word limit. Tables should be counted as the number of words they contain. Proposals that are found to be overlength will be rejected. Don’t forget to read the guidance notes, above.*  -------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------- | | | |
| Word count (please complete): |  | | |
| **References (Bibliography)** (not included in your Word count) | | | |
|  | | | |
| **Lay Summary** | | | |
| *Please provide a short summary of your proposed research, doing so in plain English and in a way that a non-academic and non-specialist audience can understand. (150 words max).*  ------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------- | | | |
| **If you are applying to an interdisciplinary pathway** (our interdisciplinary pathways are: Advanced Quantitative Methods (AQM); Sociotechnical Futures and Digital Methods; Global Challenges and Transformations: geopolitics, inequalities and mobilities; Health, Wellbeing and Society; and, Climate Change, Sustainability and Society) | | | |
| *If you are applying to one of our interdisciplinary pathways, please provide a clear explanation for why the research is interdisciplinary in its conception and how it will be so in its execution. (200 words max)*  -------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------- | | | |
| **Does your research proposal fit with one of the following steers?** *(see guidance notes)*  *Please select ONE only. If your research potentially fits with more than one then select the best fit.* | | | |
| **Data skills** | | YES / NO | |
| **Advanced Quantitative Methods** | | YES / NO | |
| *If Yes, please state clearly how your proposed research fits within the steer. (150 words max)*  -------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------- | | | |
| **Will this research be collaborative with one or more external partners (e.g. business or third sector partners)?** | | | YES / NO |
| *If Yes, please name the partner(s), saying whether they are indicative/potential partners or whether they have been approached already and, if so, what support/commitment they are offering to the project. Outline their roles and responsibilities within the research and what plans you have to maintain meaningful and active collaboration over the duration of the PhD. (300 words max)*  -------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------- | | | |
| **Plans for Overseas Fieldwork, Difficult Language Training and/or Overseas Institutional Visits** | | | |
| *If you have plans for overseas fieldwork, which may or may not involve language training, and/or for visiting an overseas institution to support international academic networking and engagement, please give brief details here: where, for how long, and what is the estimated cost, at the present time, of travel from the UK, subsistence and accommodation? You do not need to include the cost of any language training but please indicate whether it would be required. We recognise that your plans may change.*  -------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------- | | | |
| **Impact potential** | | | |
| *With reference to* [Defining impact – UKRI](https://www.ukri.org/councils/esrc/impact-toolkit-for-economic-and-social-sciences/defining-impact/)*, outline the proposed research’s potential for impact and any potential/ideas/plans for knowledge exchange that might enhance it, including that which might be supported by applying to the SWDTP’s impact fund, see* [Collaboration and Impact | SWDTP](https://www.swdtp.ac.uk/collaboration/) *(250 words max)* | | | |
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| **Benefitting from and contributing to a diverse and collaborative student community** | | | |
| *The SWDTP strives to foster a diverse and collaborative student community where everyone feels supported by us and by their peers to contribute to, engage with and share the opportunities available to them and to others. We are interested in widening participation in its broadest sense, which includes recruiting from population groups, places and research topics often under-represented in the social sciences, but is also about widening the opportunities for all students, regardless of background, to offer, organise and participate in cross-disciplinary and cross-institutional activities and collaborations.*  *Reflecting on your own background, interests and/or proposed approach to PhD study and the opportunities that these and being a part of the SWDTP present, how will you contribute to diversity and inclusion, student-led initiatives and/or collaborative activities that will benefit you, the SWDTP and strengthen our PhD community? (250 words max)*  -------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------- | | | |

**(A3) Safety and wellbeing**

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| **Risk Assessment and consideration of personal wellbeing** |
| *At the SWDTP we want to support the wellbeing of our students and to make sure research is being practised in ways that limit harm to whomever or whatever the research encounters. Please outline, here, the potential risks of the research to other people and/or to the environment, as well as to yourself, and what has been done to mitigate them. These risks include the potential to do harm to your own health and wellbeing. In the case of research that could be traumatic to yourself, please describe what conversations you have had with your proposed supervisor about how this risk can be reduced or what support you may need from your university or from the SWDTP for it to be so. Please note that although this section is not formally scored, if we have reason to believe that you have not adequately considered the risks involved in doing the research then we may decide not to fund it. (250 words max)*  *--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------* |

**(A4) Development Needs Analysis (core training)**

Please complete the following table as fully as you can. The information you provide does not affect the scoring of your application but it is important that the information you provide is accurate as we may contact you for supporting evidence. The purpose of asking for this information is not for us to select students with high existing proficiencies but for us to align our funding offer with your current proficiencies so we can support your developmental needs as a researcher and help you to meet the core training requirements that the ESRC expects of all postgraduates. That is why it is important that you are honest in your self-assessment.

When assessing your level of proficiency in the various skills and methods…

* A high level means you have been trained in, used and understand the skills at a high (approaching expert) level. It is something you have specialised in, in your job, for example, or in your educational training (e.g. it was central to a research dissertation).
* Intermediate means you have solid experience and knowledge. It would typically be something that you has been taught to you and you have demonstrated competency in, in assessed work, for example, or in your job role, but you would not consider yourself to be a specialist or expert in it.
* Low means you have an introductory knowledge, awareness or experience but it is basic and limited and have never really been used; perhaps something that was taught or mentioned ‘in passing’ only and formed only a small component of a teaching module or training course.
* The meaning of None is self-evident.

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| **Which of the following best describes your research proposal?** (delete as applicable) | Quantitative / Qualitative / Mixed methods / Non-empirical |
| **Do you have or are you presently undertaking a Masters degree? If YES…**  **Name of Masters programme: Institution (University) and country where you are taking the programme: Date of completion or expected date of completion:** | YES / NO |

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| Which of the following have you prior experience of?  If you have only experience of some of each, then underline those you have experience of and strikethrough (~~like this~~) those that you do not. | Level of proficiency\* (delete as applicable) | Mark with a X, below, where your experience is through a… | | | How long ago were you taught or last used/practised it? (delete as applicable) | Please provide concise details (e.g. name(s) of module(s) or nature of work training; any grade you received) |
| Undergrad degree | Masters degree | Job / other |
| **Digital methods and data skills** |  | | | | | |
| *Data management, including data handling, management and curating, open science principles and practices, how to make data and analysis reproducible for other users* | High / Intermediate / Low / None |  |  |  | Recently / Within the past year / 1 to <3 years ago / 3+ years ago / Never |  |
| *Digital skills, including building apps, web-scraping and machine learning* | High / Intermediate / Low / None |  |  |  | Recently / Within the past year / 1 to <3 years ago / 3+ years ago / Never |
| *The ability to record and represent different modes of data (such as textual aural and visual) using a range of data visualisation techniques* | High / Intermediate / Low / None |  |  |  | Recently / Within the past year / 1 to <3 years ago / 3+ years ago / Never |
| *Data analysis of and computing programming with large and complex data (‘big data’)* | High / Intermediate / Low / None |  |  |  | Recently / Within the past year / 1 to <3 years ago / 3+ years ago / Never |
| *Understanding of AI and machine learning as research tools* | High / Intermediate / Low / None |  |  |  | Recently / Within the past year / 1 to <3 years ago / 3+ years ago / Never |
| *Secure data storage, safe methods of disposing of data, GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) and the UKRI Open Access Policy* | High / Intermediate / Low / None |  |  |  | Recently / Within the past year / 1 to <3 years ago / 3+ years ago / Never |
| *Ethical and legal issues* | High / Intermediate / Low / None |  |  |  | Recently / Within the past year / 1 to <3 years ago / 3+ years ago / Never |
| **Qualitative methods and skills** |  | | | | | |
| *Understanding and to interpreting a range of phenomenological or textual data* | High / Intermediate / Low / None |  |  |  | Recently / Within the past year / 1 to <3 years ago / 3+ years ago / Never |  |
| *Analytic methods for offline and online textual, aural and visual data* | High / Intermediate / Low / None |  |  |  | Recently / Within the past year / 1 to <3 years ago / 3+ years ago / Never |
| *Participatory, multi modal and arts-based research approaches* | High / Intermediate / Low / None |  |  |  | Recently / Within the past year / 1 to <3 years ago / 3+ years ago / Never |
| *Historical, comparative and archival methods* | High / Intermediate / Low / None |  |  |  | Recently / Within the past year / 1 to <3 years ago / 3+ years ago / Never |
| *Discourse, content, or narrative analysis* | High / Intermediate / Low / None |  |  |  | Recently / Within the past year / 1 to <3 years ago / 3+ years ago / Never |
| *Analysis of qualitative data, using a computer assisted data analysis package, such as NVivo, MAXQDA, or Atlas-ti* | High / Intermediate / Low / None |  |  |  | Recently / Within the past year / 1 to <3 years ago / 3+ years ago / Never |
| **Quantitative methods and skills** |  | | | | | |
| *Collating, analysing and interpreting numerical data* | High / Intermediate / Low / None |  |  |  | Recently / Within the past year / 1 to <3 years ago / 3+ years ago / Never |  |
| *Creating Tabular and graphical forms of data presentation* | High / Intermediate / Low / None |  |  |  | Recently / Within the past year / 1 to <3 years ago / 3+ years ago / Never |
| *Inferential statistical tests for parametric and nonparametric data* | High / Intermediate / Low / None |  |  |  | Recently / Within the past year / 1 to <3 years ago / 3+ years ago / Never |
| *Statistical inference from cross sectional and longitudinal sample surveys and inference from research using experimental designs* | High / Intermediate / Low / None |  |  |  | Recently / Within the past year / 1 to <3 years ago / 3+ years ago / Never |
| *ANOVA, correlation, linear/non-linear regression, multivariate modelling, fixed and random effect models, growth trajectory and multi-level modelling* | High / Intermediate / Low / None |  |  |  | Recently / Within the past year / 1 to <3 years ago / 3+ years ago / Never |
| *Data reduction and grouping methods, such as factor and cluster analysis, multidimensional scaling and other such data reduction methods linked to research design and data format.* | High / Intermediate / Low / None |  |  |  | Recently / Within the past year / 1 to <3 years ago / 3+ years ago / Never |
| *Longitudinal analysis, event history analysis and agent-based modelling or similar* | High / Intermediate / Low / None |  |  |  | Recently / Within the past year / 1 to <3 years ago / 3+ years ago / Never |
| **Subject skills and knowledge** |  | | | | | |
| *Principles of research design and strategy, including an understanding of how to formulate research questions which are amenable to empirical investigation and an appreciation of alternative approaches to research* | High / Intermediate / Low / None |  |  |  | Recently / Within the past year / 1 to <3 years ago / 3+ years ago / Never |  |
| *Well informed of the latest thinking and ideas in the pathway to which you are applying – including subject knowledge, theoretical positions and research methods – from a range of perspectives* | High / Intermediate / Low / None |  |  |  | Recently / Within the past year / 1 to <3 years ago / 3+ years ago / Never |
| *Knowledge of the theoretical traditions and research techniques that underpin the pathway to which you are applying* | High / Intermediate / Low / None |  |  |  | Recently / Within the past year / 1 to <3 years ago / 3+ years ago / Never |
| *Understanding of the significance of alternative epistemological positions and how epistemological choices impact research practices and findings* | High / Intermediate / Low / None |  |  |  | Recently / Within the past year / 1 to <3 years ago / 3+ years ago / Never |
| *Application of good ethical practice across the entire research process, including data ethics which are inclusive of digital approaches* | High / Intermediate / Low / None |  |  |  | Recently / Within the past year / 1 to <3 years ago / 3+ years ago / Never |
| *Disseminate research in a way that is consistent with both professional practice and the standard principles of research ethics.* | High / Intermediate / Low / None |  |  |  | Recently / Within the past year / 1 to <3 years ago / 3+ years ago / Never |

**(A5) Academic reference**

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| **Name of academic referee (not proposed supervisor) who you will ask to provide a reference:** |
| Name and title:  Institutional address:  Contact e-mail:  How this person knows you:  *Note: we understand that in some circumstances an academic reference is of less relevance than that of a current employer or similar. If this applies to you, please get in contact with the SWDTP at* [*swdtp-enquiries@bristol.ac.uk*](mailto:swdtp-enquiries@bristol.ac.uk) *and we will advise further.* |

**(A6) Statement of originality and authenticity**

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| As we have previously stated, it is important that your research proposal is substantively your own work and that it neither plagiarises any other person’s work nor has been written by anyone else on your behalf. This extends to using ChatGPT or other artificial intelligence tools to write substantial elements of your research proposal. By making your application to the SWDTP you are certifying that the information you have provided is correct, that you understand this it is subject to checking, and that any evidence of falsification, of dishonesty or of improper academic practice such as plagiarism or collusion will lead to the application being rejected, to you bring reported to your institution for academic malpractice and/or to any funding award being withdrawn at any time. It is also possible that you will be required to repay any funding that has been given to that point.  **You must sign or type below to confirm that you understand and agree to this.** |
| Name: *(type name, sign or insert signature here)*  Date: |
| We do, however, allow potential supervisors to read, comment and provide feedback on draft research proposals, if they are willing and have the time to do so. We also recognise that some research is collaborative and co-produced with an external partner who may provide guidance in framing what sort of research questions are of interest to them and what resources they may have available to help answer them (e.g. access to data, archives or policy networks). Please record below the nature of any contributions to the design of the research and/or the writing of the research proposal that were made by other people. |
| *Examples of what you might write here include:*  *My supervisor provided feedback on a draft version of the research proposal.*  *The broad research topic was suggested to me by my supervisor but I have developed the specific research questions myself.*  *The research builds on work that I did in my undergraduate dissertation but takes it in new directions by looking at…*  *The collaborative partner has contributed to the research idea but it was co-produced and we worked on it together.*  *-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------* |
| The information you provide as part of your application will be shared with other institutions in the SWDTP partnership for purposes of shortlisting and interviewing, we are unable to process your application without this. |
| ☐ Please X to consent to the above |

**NOTE: FUNDING APPLICATION DEADLINE: 12.00 (Noon) GMT Friday 12th January 2024**

Please submit your application in plenty of time noting any time difference if not in the UK and to avoid any potential IT issues. Late applications will **NOT** be accepted.

**IMPORTANT Checklist:**

**Have you (please X):**

☐ Made an application to study for a PhD at the institution to which you are applying and sent in the documentation required to process your application. Note: if the institution rejects your application to study on a given pathway in that institution, then you will no longer be eligible for a studentship at that institution and pathway.

☐ Identified a potential supervisor and discussed your proposal and this application form with them.

☐ Sent a **copy** of this completed SWDTP Application form (Annex A, **not** your SWDTP Equal Opportunities Student Data form) to your proposed supervisor so that they can complete their Supervisor Supporting Statement (Annex B) by the funding deadline. Please submit your application in plenty of time noting any time difference if not in the UK and to avoid any potential IT issues. Late applications with not be accepted.

☐ Sent a copy of the below to your institution to be considered for ESRC funding:

☐ This Studentship Application Form (Annex A)

☐ The completed Supervisor Statement (Annex B)

☐ Transcript(s) or marks profile

☐ If applicable, letters of external collaboration support

☐ SWDTP Equal Opportunities Student Data form

☐ Reminded your academic referee of the need for them to submit their reference, preferably by the funding deadline, or definitely by w/c 19th February 2024. References are to be sent to the institution to which you are applying:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Bath | [dc-admissions-hss@bath.ac.uk](mailto:dc-admissions-hss@bath.ac.uk) |
| Bristol | [fssl-pgr@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:fssl-pgr@bristol.ac.uk) |
| Exeter | [pgrenquiries@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:pgrenquiries@exeter.ac.uk) |
| Plymouth | [doctoralcollege@plymouth.ac.uk](mailto:doctoralcollege@plymouth.ac.uk) |
| UWE | [Graduateschool@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:Graduateschool@uwe.ac.uk) |
| Bath Spa | [pgradmissions@bathspa.ac.uk](mailto:pgradmissions@bathspa.ac.uk) |
| Bournemouth | [pgradmissions@bournemouth.ac.uk](mailto:pgradmissions@bournemouth.ac.uk) |
| Plymouth Marjon | [pgr@marjon.ac.uk](mailto:pgr@marjon.ac.uk) |