Annex A – Studentship Application Form for 2023 Entry

IMPORTANT:
The closing date for applications to all our partner institutions is 12.00 (Noon) GMT Friday 13th January 2023.
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 2022. Please contact the relevant pathway lead for further information: **https://www.swdtp.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/SWDTP-Pathway-Lead-Contacts-26102022.xlsx**.

Personal details	
Known As	**Application number** *(if you have one)*
Name (as recorded on your Passport)	
E-Mail Address	
Alternative E-Mail Address (if available)	
Nationality and *(if different)* **Country of Domicile** *(where you live)*	
International students, please note: ESRC will fund international students at the home fee and stipend rate. This does not cover the difference between the UK rate and the international fee set by universities. It is essential to confirm the policy of the university to which you are applying e.g., is there a fee waiver? Will you be expected to pay the difference? Please note that you will be expected to pay your own travel costs, visa fees and other associated costs (e.g., immigration health surcharge to access the National Health Service)	
University and Pathway to which you are applying (https://www.swdtp.ac.uk/prospective-students-and-fellows/esrc-funded-studentships/). *You can only apply once to any one Pathway in any one University (see note below).*	

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.

Please note that the maximum number of applications you can make to the SWDTP in any one year is two. This may consist of two applications to the same Pathway in different institutions (e.g. Education in Bath and Exeter), two applications to different Pathways in the same institution (e.g. both Human Geography and Psychology in Plymouth) or two applications to different Pathways in different institutions (e.g. Education in Bath and Human Geography in Plymouth). **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 Bath).**

Would you like to be considered for a Masters waiver? (See note below)

YES / NO

Note: it is the default policy of the SWDTP to enrol students on what is called a 1 + 3 PhD. This provides funding for a 1 year Masters qualification which, if passed at the required standard, continues into a 3-year PhD. However, we usually waive the Masters component for students with an existing Masters qualification where a minimum of one third of the taught stage of the programme entailed research methods elements, divided approximately equally between social sciences research design, and quantitative and qualitative research methods elements. If you have answered yes, above, then please briefly discuss below how you meet these criteria (a pre-existing Masters is not, in itself, sufficient; it needs to meet the criteria described). If you come close to meeting them but not fully, please detail what is missing. We may, at our discretion, make allowance for professional experience. However, the final decision whether to award a PhD as 3-year or 1+3 lies with our awarding committee.

Are you applying for a full-time or part-time studentship?

Proposed supervisors

Note: For interdisciplinary pathways the Lead Supervisor will be from the applicant's home institution and the second supervisor <u>must</u> *be from a different discipline (a different sub-discipline is not sufficient; however, the second could still be from the same institution but a different discipline).*

The Lead and Second Supervisors must be employed at one of the SWDTP's partner institutions – Bath, Bristol, Exeter, Plymouth or UWE Bristol.

Name of Lead Supervisor: School or department: Discipline: University:	Name of Second Supervisor: School or department: Discipline: (must be different from the Lead Supervisor for interdisciplinary pathways) University:
Name of Third Supervisor (if applicable): School or department: Discipline: University:	

Previous degrees attained (Undergraduate and Masters)	Date	Result
(a) *Please include the name of the degree and the awarding organisation:*		
(b) *Please also include the title(s) of any previous research dissertation(s) you have undertaken and the marks*		

they attained:		

We appreciate and value difference, seeking to attract, develop and retain a diverse mix of talented people that will contribute to and benefit from the South West Doctoral Training Partnership.

(Optional) Please provide any contextual information that is relevant to your prior attainment and to your educational pathway to this point. For example, if you are returning to the education system after a period of prolonged absence, you may, if you wish, list any relevant professional experience/qualifications that you have gained. Or, if your prior attainment was affected by extenuating circumstances that you wish to share with us, please do so. Please do not simply summarise your CV here. What we are interested in is any contextual information that will help us understand an applicant's social or educational background where they are coming from less usual pathways into a PhD. It is fine to leave this section blank and we anticipate most applicants will do so.

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 and we will advise further.

(The application form continues overleaf)

Important notes:

1. All applications will be assessed primarily on **your 1,300-word research proposal that should illustrate the following:**

   1.1 Research potential – achievable within the duration of the award, understanding of the field, potential for original contribution, consideration of relevant past research and theory, and fit to strategic priorities, including

   - ESRC - https://esrc.ukri.org/about-us/strategy-and-priorities/
   - Chosen Faculty / School / Department
   - Interdisciplinary Pathway

   1.2 Research proposal - clear research question, clear understanding of the demands of the project, conversant in relevant/ proposed methods (or aware of methodological needs where applying for 1+3), consideration of ethical issues/constraints on the project, and the potential for impact https://esrc.ukri.org/research/impact-toolkit/what-is-impact/. **For interdisciplinary programmes, a clearly articulated interdisciplinary approach should be evident**. It must be clear why the research should be considered interdisciplinary.

   One or other of the following – NOT BOTH

   Either: **Collaborative, Impact and Engagement Elements*** - important factors include relevant external partner identified, collaboration plan (with partner), impact, and awareness of opportunities and challenges those external collaborations bring. Various relevant ESRC links include:

   - Collaboration and knowledge exchange https://esrc.ukri.org/collaboration/
   - Impact https://esrc.ukri.org/research/impact-toolkit/

     Evaluation and Impact *[*NOTE: The ESRC continue to emphasise the importance of collaboration with non-academic public, private and/or civil-society sector organisations. Applications should highlight any relevant forms of knowledge exchange and collaborative working with an external (non-academic) organisation e.g., Co-funding, Internships, Placements or Contribution in terms of time, resources required such as equipment or assays, access to data, etc. Collaboration must include substantive knowledge exchange and not just one-way engagement (e.g., data collection)]*

   Or: **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, involving multiple or unusual disciplinary combinations both within and beyond the social sciences, and accessing difficult/challenging data or generating new data in challenging settings.

   Note: should you be shortlisted for interview, this will also form part of the assessment of your project. All interviews will be conducted online.

2. As part of the application process, academics from other disciplines may read your application for funding and so it is important that this summary is written with this in-mind

3. 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 separate section below 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. You should refer to https://www.swdtp.ac.uk/funding-for-current-students/ for further information

4. Please note that the equal opportunity information (if provided) will not be shared for the purposes of assessment but will be collected and shared anonymously with the ESRC as part of the Annual Report – as requested by them.

Title of proposed research

Your research proposal. Please refer to the notes above for guidance as to what the proposal should contain. The scoring criteria that we use to judge applications are available on the SWDTP website. https://www.swdtp.ac.uk/information-for-academic-colleagues/pathway-leads-and-supervisors/

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. Remember that if you are applying to one of our interdisciplinary programmes, a clearly articulated interdisciplinary approach should be evident.

Word count (please complete):

Will your research use any ESRC datasets? https://www.swdtp.ac.uk/prospective-students-and-fellows/how-do-i-apply-for-a-studentship/esrc-datasets/
Yes / No If yes, please name the dataset/s and how you are going to use this

References (Bibliography) (not included in your Word count)

Adapting and responding to Covid-19 In the following section, reflect upon how your research would be affected if recent circumstances were to continue (with, for example, on-going constraints on overseas travel, face-to-face interviewing, and so forth) and how you would adapt the research to meet those challenges. What you need to demonstrate is that you have thought through the potential issues and would still have a way of making progress to a successful PhD. (500 words maximum. Note: this is in addition to the 1,300-research proposal)

Which category do you wish your application to be considered against? (tick one only)	
Collaborative, Impact and Engagement Elements	
Ambitious and Novel Research Proposal	

(This is for information only and will not be used as part of the assessment process, however, this **must** be included if you wish to access these funds during your studies)

If relevant, please confirm additional funding requirements against one or more of the following (up to 100 words per allowance)

- Difficult Language Training
- Overseas Fieldwork
- Overseas Institutional Visits

Please sign or type your name below and enter the date. By doing so you are certifying that the information you have provided is correct, is subject to checking and that any evidence of falsification, of dishonesty or of the proposal having been written by anyone else will lead to the application being rejected or to any funding awarding being withdrawn. You are certifying that you are the author of the research proposal.
Name: Date: 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

(Before submitting your application, please refer to the checklist below)

NOTE: FUNDING APPLICATION DEADLINE: 12.00 (Noon) GMT Friday 13th January 2023

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):

- ☐   identified a potential supervisor and discussed your proposal and application form, Annex A, with them

- ☐   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.

- ☐   sent a **copy** of your 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:
    - ☐   The 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 the 20th February 2023. References to be sent to the institution to which you are applying at the contacts below

Bath	Doctoral Recruitment Team	doctoraladmissions@bath.ac.uk
Bristol	Przemek Szczodry	swdtp-bristol@bristol.ac.uk
Exeter	Natalie Bartram	swdtp-support@exeter.ac.uk
Plymouth	Sarah Kearns	doctoralcollege@plymouth.ac.uk
UWE	Graduate School	graduateschool@uwe.ac.uk