**ANNEX B**

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| **SWDTP Supervisor Supporting Statement** | |
| **Student name**: | |
| **Title of research proposal** | |
| **Lead supervisor,** department, institution. For applications to interdisciplinary pathways, please clearly state the discipline (which must differ from the second supervisor) | |
| **Second supervisor,** department, institution. For applications to interdisciplinary pathways, please clearly state the discipline (which must differ from the lead supervisor) | |
| Please confirm that the supervisory team meets the requirements of the SWDTP: this is that one or both of the supervisors has supervised at least one UK based PhD student from their start to a successful completion: **YES / NO**  Please also confirm that the supervisory team meets the requirements of the host institution (that of the Lead supervisor), which may add additional constraints, for example, on who can be the lead supervisor: **YES / NO** | |
| **Name of SWDTP Pathway(s) student is applying to** (see <https://www.swdtp.ac.uk/prospective-students-and-fellows/esrc-funded-studentships/>): | |
| **Please indicate *if* this proposal addresses one of the three ESRC strategic steers** *(proposals do not have to address any of these steers)*: | |
| Advanced Quantitative Methods (AQM) (if discussed and agreed with AQM Pathway Lead at your institution) |  |
| Use of ESRC datasets (including details of which dataset and how familiar the applicant is with that data. If a student is funded under the dataset steer, then this must be a robust part of their project as it cannot be changed at a later date |  |
| Interdisciplinary awards research which straddles other research council remits |  |
| **Please detail any resources and/or research facilities required in the project (e.g. equipment or assays). NOTE: the SWDTP Hub cannot provide any funding for access to facilities/equipment that are not available at the institutional level** | |
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| **SUPPORTING STATEMENT (to be written by the Lead Supervisor)**  Your supporting statement should not exceed 500 words in total – this is a strict maximum. There is no set format for the statement but areas you should address are: why the proposed research is a good fit with you and the second supervisor, and also the broader institutional context; what is innovative about the proposed research and ‘why it matters’; the feasibility or otherwise of the research with an expectation that it be completed within a 3-year funding period; any observations about the strengths (and/or weaknesses) about the proposal; and, in the case of interdisciplinary applications, what makes it genuinely interdisciplinary. |
| Please give your assessment of the overall quality of the proposed research and how it is presented in the prospective student’s application. It is important that you are honest and realistic and that your assessment matches the criteria below. Not every application can be exceptional. **Please note that you are grading the proposal as written, not the applicant or their past attainment.**  A+ – Truly outstanding. The research proposal is exceptionally well-written with a sharpness and clarity to the research question, how it relates to existing knowledge within the field, and outlining genuine methodological innovation and/or theoretical sophistication in how the topic will be researched. It has the potential to be truly ground-breaking. **As a rule of thumb, the applicant is in the top 1% of applications.**  A – Excellent. The research proposal is very well-written with a sharpness and clarity to the research question, how it relates to existing knowledge within the field, and with methodological innovation and/or theoretical sophistication in how the topic will be researched. This is exciting, novel and original research but not quite as ground-breaking as for the higher rating. **As a rule of thumb, the applicant is in the top 10% of applications.**  B+ – Very Good. The research proposal is well-written, with clarity to the research question and how it relates to existing knowledge within the field. The proposed methods of research are well aligned to the research topic. The research will add effectively to the field but lacks the ‘wow factor’ of the higher ratings. This is still a strong application. **The majority of applicants should score either B+ or B.**  B – Good. The research proposal is broadly well-written but lacks clarity in respect to the research question, how it relates to existing knowledge within the field and/or the proposed methods of research. There are gaps in the proposal but it remains good. **The majority of applicants should score either B+ or B.**  C – Adequate. This is a proposal that you are willing to supervise and that outlines an achievable PhD. However, it is more ‘pedestrian’ and/or lacking in flair/originality/innovation/clarity where compared to the higher grades.  D – Inadequate. Only assign this grade if you have strong reservations about the proposed research, its viability and/or its suitability for ESRC (or part-ESRC) funding (for example, if there is no social science component). This grade will likely lead to the application being rejected. |
| Please delete as applicable: A+ / A / B+ / B / C / D |
| **EITHER ONE OR OTHER OF THE FOLLOWING (4.1 or 4.2 – NOT BOTH)**  **4.1 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. Various relevant ESRC links include:   * 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/ * Evaluation and Impact https://esrc.ukri.org/research/research-and-impact-evaluation/   *[\*****NOTE:*** *The ESRC continue to emphasise the importance of collaboration with non-academic public, private and civil-society sector organisations. Applications should highlight any relevant forms of knowledge exchange and collaborative working with an external (non-academic) public, private or civil-society sector organisation e.g. Co-funding, Internships, Placements or Contribution in terms of time, resources, access to data, etc. Collaboration must include substantive knowledge exchange and not just one-way engagement (e.g. data collection)]*  **4.2 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.  **Important note re International students: 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. Please ensure that that international applicants are aware they may be asked to pay the difference if a fee waiver is not in place at your university.** |
| Please provide a brief summary **of no more than 150 words**, outlining if the student should be considered under 4.1 or 4.2 above, and why. |
| Please confirm that the research proposal is wholly or substantively the applicant’s own work. Where this is not the case, please outline why and the level/nature of the involvement that you (or others) have had in its formation: |
| **Signature:**  **Date**: |