SCOTTISH GRADUATE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE (SGSSS)

COLLABORATIVE STUDENTSHIP COMPETITION 2020/21

SUPERVISOR GUIDANCE

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The closing date for applications is **Friday 30 October**. The closing date will be strictly adhered to.

All applications must be submitted via the SGSSS platform, GradHub. Links to GradHub can be found at: [www.sgss.ac.uk](http://www.sgss.ac.uk)

SGSSS plans to communicate the outcome of the competition to successful and unsuccessful candidates by the end of November, so that successful applicants can start recruiting students from early 2021.
1. Overview

1.1 Background

The Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) is committed to supporting knowledge exchange and collaboration, to ensure that research has a positive impact on society and the economy. The ESRC’s expectation is that 30% of the studentships led by Doctoral Training Partnerships (DTPs) are collaborative studentships run in partnership with a non-academic partner organisation.

The SGSSS is the UK’s largest facilitator of funding, training and support for doctoral students in social science. By combining the expertise of 16 universities across Scotland, the school facilitates world-class PhD research. The school is funded jointly by the ESRC and the Scottish Funding Council.

We are now inviting applications for the SGSSS Collaborative Studentships Competition that will see students start their projects in October 2021.

The SGSSS defines “collaborative” broadly, so that this term encompasses collaboration with private sector companies, public sector bodies or third sector organisations. Up to 15 awards have been allocated for this year’s Collaborative Studentships Competition.

The competition has five key stages:

1. Supervisors submit an application with a non-academic partner organisation.
2. The SGSSS and an expert review panel review the applications.
3. Successful applicants are invited to start recruiting a student.
4. The supervisor informs the SGSSS of their preferred candidate, further to eligibility checks within their own University.
5. SGSSS approve the preferred candidate and specify the necessary training required, subject to their eligibility checks.

Project proposals can come from any pathway as long as the supervisor is aligned with a pathway for which their HEI has ESRC accreditation.\(^1\) There is no limit on the number of proposals that a pathway may submit. Collaborative awards are additional studentships and there are no implications for success in the Open Competition.

\(^1\) The list of HEI pathway eligibility can be found here: [https://www.sgsss.ac.uk/about-us/pathways/](https://www.sgsss.ac.uk/about-us/pathways/)
Please note that each supervisor can only submit one application per competition. However, there is no limit to the number of supervisory teams a supervisor can be part of in the Open Competition (where students apply directly for funding).

You can find more information on the Collaborative Competition, hear application guidance, and see a case study on the [SGSSS website](#).

### 1.2 Funding Arrangements

**SGSSS Funding**

SGSSS-DTP funding is limited to the standard ESRC studentship package: fees, maintenance stipend, Research Training Support Grant (RTSG), and overseas travel allowance. Additional funding requirements, including further travel, subsistence, and accommodation in connection with visits to the collaborating partner, will not be funded by the SGSSS-DTP.

The SGSSS funding model means that all studentships awarded will be co-funded by the host institution, usually to the value of one third. The exception to the one third HEI contribution is where the award is for a collaborative studentship with a financial contribution from the non-academic partner. For these awards, the contribution from the host institution is reduced as follows:

- 10% contribution from the non-academic partner: 25% contribution from host HEI and 65% from SGSSS
- 25% contribution from the non-academic partner: 25% contribution from host HEI and 50% from SGSSS
- 33% contribution from the non-academic partner: 17% contribution from host HEI and 50% from SGSSS
- 50% contribution from the non-academic partner: 0% contribution from host HEI and 50% from SGSSS

**Cross-Institutional Supervision**

We will continue to support cross-institutional supervision where the arrangements are in the best interests of students. In these cases, the lead institution will be regarded as the host institution. The expectation is that the host institution will be responsible for covering the one third HEI contribution. The second institution will not be responsible for any proportion of the contribution. Further, the fees due will be transferred to the host institution with no expectation of a proportion of the fees going to the second institution.
Exceptions will be made where the cross-institutional supervision partnership is with one of our four HEIs that currently do not hold studentships. In these cases the host institution will pay only 70% of the institutional cost with SGSSS contributing the remaining 30% of the institutional costs. For these studentships we will support the transfer of 30% of fees going to the second institution.

**Collaborative Partner Contributions**

There is an expectation that collaborative studentships normally include an element of monetary co-funding. This is to ensure that the collaborative partner is engaged with the studentship and that the project will be sustainable.

We understand that organisations will contribute in different ways to the studentships, and that a flat fee might make the projects inaccessible for some partners. Please see below a guide to help supervisors identify the recommended contribution for a non-academic partner organisation. In addition, since 2017, the ESRC requires co-funded studentships to include proportional costs for cohort-development building in the first year only, which amounts in total to £4,000.

For example, the minimum partner financial contribution is 10% of the studentship package, which is approx. £2,128 per annum for a standard studentship. In addition, the partner would need to contribute £400 (10% of £4,000) for cohort-building, as a one off.

**Private Sector**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company size</th>
<th>Company turnover</th>
<th>Contribution</th>
<th>Approx. total cost of +3</th>
<th>Approx. total cost of 1+3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Micro &lt; 10 employees</td>
<td>&lt; £630K</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>£6,783</td>
<td>£8,990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small &lt; 50 employees</td>
<td>&lt; £10M</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>£16,958</td>
<td>£22,476</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium &lt; 250 employees</td>
<td>&lt; £50M</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>£22,384</td>
<td>£29,668</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large &gt; 250 employees</td>
<td>&gt; £50M</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>£33,916</td>
<td>£44,952</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2 All costs and figures detailed within the ‘Collaborative Partner Contributions’ section of this guidance document are correct as of 2020 and are subject to change in line with the UK Government’s annual GDP deflator index, year on year.
Public Sector³

If the collaborative partner is the Scottish Government or a Scottish Public Body then we expect co-funding to be at the rate of one-third of the full studentship and cohort-development costs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contribution</th>
<th>Approx. total cost of +3</th>
<th>Approx. total cost of 1+3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>33%</td>
<td>£22,384</td>
<td>£29,668</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Charity/Third Sector

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contribution</th>
<th>Approx. total cost of +3</th>
<th>Approx. total cost of 1+3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10%</td>
<td>£6,783</td>
<td>£8,990</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Studentship Costs

To support the conversations that supervisors have with non-academic partners regarding the costs of a studentship, please see below for further information about the full costs. A collaborative studentship should be advertised as both 1+3 and a +3 award.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Full award</th>
<th>2021-22</th>
<th>2022-23</th>
<th>2023-24</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stipend</td>
<td>£15,582</td>
<td>£15,886</td>
<td>£16,203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fees</td>
<td>£4,492</td>
<td>£4,579</td>
<td>£4,670</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OFW</td>
<td>£450</td>
<td>£450</td>
<td>£450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RTSG</td>
<td>£750</td>
<td>£750</td>
<td>£750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cohort Development</td>
<td>£4,000</td>
<td>£0</td>
<td>£0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td><strong>£25,274</strong></td>
<td><strong>£21,665</strong></td>
<td><strong>£22,073</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

³ For more information on what constitutes a public body and to find a list of public bodies as provided by the Scottish Government, please use the following link: [http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Government/public-bodies/about](http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Government/public-bodies/about)
In-kind contributions

To ensure that the student has appropriate supervision and support, and to meet the ESRC’s requirements, the SGSSS expects collaborative studentships to have a financial contribution from the non-academic partner, however we recognize that in the current economic climate, as a result of Covid-19, there might be critical projects where the partner is not able to contribute.

We can consider applications with an in-kind contribution from the collaborative partner in exceptional circumstances. In these cases, we would require information about the cash value equivalent of in-kind support, so the supervisor will need to make it clear in the application what type of in-kind support is being provided and how this can be quantified.
2. Application Process

2.1 Supervisor Applications

Applications for collaborative awards can be submitted by prospective lead supervisors based within recognised SGSSS-DTP pathways. Supervisors must have undergone supervisor training within the last 5 years within their current institution. Liaison with the relevant Pathway Representative at your HEI is strongly encouraged. Details of previously funded projects can be found in the Appendix.

The application form is available via GradHub for completion. Please note that after the award has been made to the supervisor, the supervisor’s HEI will need to sign a partnership agreement with the non-academic partner organisation and return a copy of the partnership agreement to the SGSSS.

2.2 Collaborative Competition Timeline

Please see below a timeline with the key dates for this year’s competition. Please note that before the student is appointed, the supervisor’s HEI will also need to complete eligibility checks with the student and sign (and return to SGSSS) a partnership agreement with the non-academic partner organisation.

- **30 October 2020 at 12pm**
  Deadline for full applications

- **30 November 2020**
  Award outcomes communicated to applicants

- **15 January 2021**
  Student recruitment period begins

- **28 May 2021**
  Deadline to notify SGSSS of preferred candidate
2.3 Student Recruitment

The ESRC is committed to equality and diversity of opportunity. For widening participation purposes, all collaborative studentship opportunities should be offered as a 1+3 or +3 award and for full-time or part-time study. The 1+3 award should be designed to support students that do not have a Masters degree prior to appointment.

Supervisors should clearly identify how they plan to advertise and recruit a student as part of their initial application. If successfully awarded a studentship, supervisors will need to consider the following guidance during the recruitment process.

Regulations on appointing students

- All collaborative studentships should be fairly advertised and abide by the recruitment processes within the supervisor’s HEI. The expectation is that student recruitment would happen from mid-January, as soon as possible once the award has been made.
- The SGSSS must approve all student appointments before they are confirmed. The ESRC continually monitors SGSSS processes and it is critical that students entering directly onto doctoral programmes meet the required ESRC core training criteria.
- The SGSSS will advertise all opportunities on FindAPhD.com. However, in prior years, some awards have proved difficult to fill. Please ensure you commit to advertising as widely as possible to ensure the best choice of well-qualified candidates. Please consider in advance whether your HEI or funding partner would be willing to pay for further advertisements.
- The lead supervisor’s HEI must ensure that residency criteria is met in order for a student to receive the full studentship, including stipend. The lead supervisor’s HEI is responsible for carrying out these checks. We strongly recommend that eligibility checks take place after candidates have been shortlisted and before they are invited for interview.4

The ESRC have provided some guidance on good practice for setting up and managing collaborative partnerships online here. This guidance is principally aimed at DTPs, but it is also relevant to supervisors engaging with Collaborative Studentships

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4 The ESRC residency criteria is available here: https://esrc.ukri.org/files/skills-and-careers/studentships/postgraduate-funding-guide/
3. Marking Framework

The same broad criteria for identifying good quality applications that is used in the Open Competition will be used for the Collaborative Competition, modified however as these applications are for studentships in which no particular student has yet been identified.

In addition, five points are allocated to an assessment of the quality of the collaborative element of the proposal, including the suitability of the proposed non-academic partner, the adequacy of the collaborating partner arrangements and agreement, and the adequacy of the arrangements for intellectual property rights.

**SGSSS-DTP Collaborative Competition Award Marking Framework 2020/21**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Marking Criteria</th>
<th>Research Proposal (OUT OF 10) (Please note that the descriptors can be used with discretion where there is a good case to do so)</th>
<th>Supervision &amp; Training (OUT OF 10)</th>
<th>Collaboration (OUT OF 5)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Candidate can demonstrate:</td>
<td><strong>An excellent proposal and scoring well in terms of both cogency and originality. All components – overview, context, methodology, and impact – will be well thought out and clearly expressed.</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLUS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Proposal is exceptionally good in all of its components <strong>AND</strong> Fulfils criteria 7-9 below</th>
<th>Supervision arrangements represent a <strong>near-perfect</strong> fit with the proposed research in relation to methods, substantive topic area and academic/policy networks. The supervisory team includes an experienced supervisor with recognised expertise in the field.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Proposal is highly original and innovative, at the cutting edge of developments substantively and methodologically <strong>AND</strong> Fulfils criteria 7 and 8 below</td>
<td>The supervision combination meets directly the student’s training needs. The destination HEI offers high-quality specialist training. The research fits well with the wider department/school/faculty. The supervisory team demonstrates an excellent degree of preparedness for supervising PhD study.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Proposal contains clear awareness of the potential impact of the research <strong>AND</strong> Fulfils criterion 7 below</td>
<td>Supervision arrangements represent a <strong>very good</strong> fit with the proposed research in relation to methods, substantive topic area and academic/policy networks. The supervisory team includes an experienced supervisor with recognised expertise in the field.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>A well-defined proposal with researchable questions, appropriately identified sources, an awareness of the theoretical and empirical background to the research and an appropriate methodology cognisant of ethical issues. The proposal should display an awareness of the research of the economic and societal relevance feasible within 3 years of a funded PhD including appropriate risk assessment.</td>
<td>The supervision combination meets very well the student’s potential training needs and has very good plans around advanced training. The destination HEI offers high-quality specialist training. The research fits well with the wider department/school/faculty.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Candidate can demonstrate:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------</td>
<td>--</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A good and promising proposal but with identifiable weaknesses. Some, but not all, components of the proposal will be problematic, ill-expressed, or show a lack of knowledge.</td>
<td>PLUS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A good proposal with only minor but still identifiable weaknesses. The research question will be clear, the methodology appropriate and clearly presented, and most of the appropriate literature identified.</td>
<td>Supervision arrangements represent a <strong>good</strong> fit with the proposed research in relation to methods, substantive topic area and academic/policy networks. The supervisory team includes an experienced supervisor with recognised expertise in the field. The supervision combination meets well the student’s potential training needs and has good plans around advanced training. The destination HEI offers high-quality specialist training. The research fits well with the wider department/school/faculty. The proposed collaboration represents an ideal fit with the proposal, demonstrates significant and well-resourced engagement of the collaborating partner planned throughout the PhD, and provides detailed consideration of ethics and intellectual property rights.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A promising proposal that suffers from several weaknesses. The methodology is appropriate but ill-expressed. The proposal is only weakly grounded in relevant literature.</td>
<td>Supervision arrangements represent an <strong>adequate</strong> fit with the proposed research in relation to methods, substantive topic area and academic/policy networks. The supervisory team includes an experienced supervisor with some expertise in the field. The proposed collaboration represents a very good fit with the proposal, demonstrates very good and well-resourced engagement of the collaborating partner planned throughout the PhD and provides detailed consideration of ethics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A proposal with one serious weakness or several minor ones, which suggests gaps in knowledge and a weak grasp of the proposed methodology and its suitability.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>A proposal with significant weaknesses in multiple components, little appreciation of possible methodologies, and/or awareness of relevant literature.</td>
<td>The supervision combination meets directly the student’s potential training needs and has adequate plans around advanced training. The destination HEI offers good quality specialist training. The research fits with the wider department/school/faculty.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>A problematic proposal that would need considerable additional work before being fundable. All components of the proposal will require further work and/or demonstrate little or no background or interest in their subject.</td>
<td>The supervision combination meets directly the student’s potential training needs and has adequate plans around advanced training. The destination HEI offers good quality specialist training. The research fits with the wider department/school/faculty.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>A problematic proposal that would need considerable additional work before being fundable. All components of the proposal will require further work and/or demonstrate little or no background or interest in their subject.</td>
<td>The supervision combination meets directly the student’s potential training needs and has adequate plans around advanced training. The destination HEI offers good quality specialist training. The research fits with the wider department/school/faculty.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. Appendix: Example Applications

The below examples are extracts from applications to the collaborative studentships competition in the 2018/19 cycle, where PhD projects started from October 2019. We have included a summary of the project information and then the abstract taken directly from the applications.

Project 1: Collaborative Art and Transformation: an exploration of the National Galleries of Scotland’s outreach programme for disadvantaged young people in Scotland

Key Information

- **Supervisor:** Dr Sarah Wilson
- **University:** University of Stirling
- **Non-academic partner:** National Galleries of Scotland
- **Pathway:** Sociology

Abstract

“Contemporary art interventions with disadvantaged young people have attained a degree of policy orthodoxy in the UK (e.g. in Scotland, the Curriculum for Excellence; Creative Learning Strategy 2013; the draft Cultural Strategy Consultation document 2018), often justified through instrumental outcomes such as widening access and social inclusion; enhanced well-being and educational attainment; and civic engagement with young people (under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) (1989)). These programmes involve complex collaborations of artists, institutions and third sector/statutory agencies each with different purposes, constraints and allegiances in relation to young people and contemporary art. Despite their rich potential, little empirical research has been undertaken to establish how these interventions generate such important effects and affects. Nor has there been research over time exploring perspectives of the young people involved and the relevance of artistic and therapeutic aims to their everyday lives. Curiously, given the trend for socially-engaged practices in contemporary art, there is scarce evidence of their impact on the field of contemporary art itself.

Employing mixed methods (observation, interviews and documentary analysis), this project combines the sociologies of childhood, education and art with the practice-based outreach context of the National Galleries of Scotland (NGS) to explore the impact of its programmes on the lives of young people; gallery practices of audience engagement; and contemporary art practices. In part, the project enacts NGS Outreach’s response to the Scottish Cultural Strategy -
harnessing creative cultural approaches to address social needs, reflecting NGS's participatory values whilst providing a rich context for research that will be of relevance across the sector.

This studentship combines highly desirable professional work-based learning with high quality academic development and research training. It has been designed to prepare the student for an interdisciplinary and intersectional career trajectory through academic, arts and cultural contexts.”

**Project 2: Considering culture in the cockpit: Cultural influences on crew resource management**

**Key Information**

- **Supervisor:** Dr Amy Irwin
- **University:** University of Aberdeen
- **Non-academic partner:** CHC Helicopters (private sector)
- **Pathway:** Psychology

**Abstract**

“The safety of UK helicopter operations was recently highlighted by the Civil Aviation Authority, after the assessment of 25 offshore helicopter accidents from 1992-2013. The majority of the causal factors identified (73%) were linked to pilot performance. Crew Resource Management (CRM) training was developed to enhance operational efficiency, improve safety, enhance resilience and enable high levels of work performance during flight. However, there are a number of factors that could influence the effectiveness of training and the extent to which behaviours are performed. In the current global climate one of the key factors of concern for aviation companies is the influence of cultural differences, both national and professional, on crew resource management attitudes and behaviours. There is a lack of research examining this issue, and yet cultural conflict has the potential to adversely impact flight safety.

The focus of the proposed research will be on the examination of the impact of culture on helicopter flight safety. The aim will be to identify the key impacts of culture on CRM behaviours both within the cockpit and in interactions with team members outside the cockpit (such as maintenance and air traffic control).

The project will utilise a mixed methods approach, with a combination of questionnaire, observation, interviews and experimental protocols to address the main research questions:

- To what extent does cultural variation (professional and national) influence CRM behaviours of employees within the same organisation?
- Does cultural background influence acceptance and application of CRM training elements?
Should CRM training be tailored to different cultural groups?

The results of the project will begin to explore a new avenue of CRM-based research; the impact of different cultural variations on the safety and co-ordination of helicopter flight crews.”

Project 3: Connecting communities: transformative impacts of community garden networks

Key Information

- **Supervisor:** Professor Andrew Cumbers
- **University:** University of Glasgow
- **Non-academic partner:** Baltic Street Adventure Playground (third sector)
- **Pathway:** Accounting, Finance and Business Management

Abstract

“A wealth of research highlights the benefit of community gardens to urban health and well-being (Draper and Freedman, 2010), social inclusion (Crossan et al., 2016), and food security (Garett and Leeds, 2015). Urban populations continue to experience multiple deprivation that is linked to spatial vulnerability and limited access to green space. The prevalence of derelict land (SMID, 2016), privatisation of public space (Smith, 2018), and the prioritisation of property-based regeneration (Shaw et al., 2018) that are common characteristics of deprived communities all serve to intensify spatial inequality.

We aim to examine transformative impacts of community garden networks and conceptualise mechanisms through which community-led gardens can empower communities to transform local food economies. In doing so, this research addresses calls for research on spatial vulnerability (Saatcioglu and Corus, 2016) that acknowledges the ways that consumer disadvantage can intensify due to geographical location. This resonates with our context and collaboration partner, Baltic Street Adventure Playground (BSAP), a third sector organisation that facilitates access to community green space in Dalmarnock – a community which belongs to 5% of the most deprived areas of Glasgow (SIMD, 2016).

Existing research identifies the positive outcomes of community gardens at the individual and community level. Limited research has examined the transformative impacts of these spaces to facilitate network building and social interaction across diverse groups within more deprived neighbourhoods. This research examines how multiple growing spaces can connect to create transformative networks of food provision for spatially vulnerable communities. It develops a network approach to engage with key third sector organisations, community groups and consumers to generate critical insights into the transformative potential of community garden
networks. This research will work towards building impact for communities by developing insights to support the practical development of community governed growing spaces, which may help tackle food inequality for low-income communities.”