ESRC STEERS SUPERVISOR-LED COMPETITIONS 2019

AQM/ESRC DATA SET
INTERDISCIPLINARY

GUIDANCE FOR SUPERVISORS

Introduction: In response to the ESRC's aim of developing early career researchers who are able to straddle research council interests and are fluent in interdisciplinary concepts and methods (interdisciplinary steer), in advanced quantitative methods (AQM steer), and in secondary data analysis (Data Set steer) we are running **two stage** competitions for all Supervisor-led ESRC Steers Competitions. This document sets out the timescales and process for the competition.

Summary of Timescales

Please note that your individual HEI may wish to deploy an earlier deadline for the EOI and full application.

Stage 1:

- Deadline for submission of Expressions of Interest (EOIs): 15th October 2018
- Shortlisted candidates invited to submit full application: 7 November 2018

Stage 2:

- Deadline for full application: 7 December 2018
- Awards to supervisors: mid-January 2019
- Adverts go live: 1 February 2019
- Adverts closing date: 1 March 2019
- Interview period: 15 March 2019 to 30 April 2019
- Deadline for recruitment of students: 1 May 2019

Overview – Interdisciplinary Competition
This competition aims to encourage conceptual and methodological creativity in the scope of interdisciplinary applications. Co-funding from another Doctoral Training Partnership is not required but applicants are advised to read the ESRC Guidance of Steers and Targets which provides the requirements of an interdisciplinary award . Please note that the criteria for DATA SET awards have been revised for 2019 entrants.

Stage 1
Supervisor pairs (with the lead supervisor in social sciences and the second supervisor outside the social sciences) are invited to submit a co-produced Expression of Interest – EoI - (maximum of 500 words). The brevity of the EoI is to encourage rapid and creative responses from interested colleagues. It should articulate the main conceptual idea and methodology of the proposal and demonstrate how it meets the brief of being inter-disciplinary. EOI application form can be found here.

Please note that in assessing applications, equal weight will be given to the research proposal and the supervisory team/research environment; both must demonstrably fit the steer. The 12 highest scoring applicants will be asked to submit a full proposal.

Stage 2
Selected applicants will be asked to submit a full application – the form can be found on GradHub. The same weighting will be applied to the assessment of applications as at the EoI stage. The top 4 proposals will be funded and supervisors required to advertise studentships widely.

Overview – AQM Competition
This competition aims to encourage the development of advanced quantitative methods skills in relation to the norms of the discipline. Applicants are advised to read the ESRC Guidance of Steers and Targets which provides the requirements of an AQM award.

Stage 1
Supervisor pairs are invited to submit a co-produced Expression of Interest – EoI - (maximum of 500 words). The brevity of the EoI is to encourage rapid and creative responses from interested colleagues. It should articulate the main conceptual idea and methodology of the proposal and demonstrate how it meets the AQM criteria. EOI application form can be found here.

Please note that in assessing applications, equal weight will be given to the research proposal and the supervisory team/research environment; both must demonstrably fit the steer. The 12 highest scoring applicants will be asked to submit a full proposal.

Stage 2
Selected applicants will be asked to submit a full application – the form can be found on GradHub. The same weighting will be applied to the assessment of applications as at the EoI stage. The top 4 proposals will be funded and supervisors required to advertise studentships widely.

Overview – DATA SET Competition

This competition aims to encourage the development of data skills as applied to secondary data analysis. Applicants are advised to read the ESRC Guidance of Steers and Targets which provides the requirements of a DATA SET award. Please note that the criteria for DATA SET awards have been revised for 2019 entrants.

In addition to the 2018 ESRC Guidance on Steers and Targets criteria, Data Set applications should refer to data sets where:

- The primary project funding period has ended;
- At least one publication deriving from the funded project has appeared in a peer-reviewed journal; and,
- The project through which the data set has been generated has been externally funded and awarded through a peer-review process.

Stage 1

Supervisor pairs are invited to submit a co-produced Expression of Interest – EoI - (maximum of 500 words). The brevity of the EoI is to encourage rapid and creative responses from interested colleagues. It should articulate the main conceptual idea and methodology of the proposal and demonstrate how it meets the DATA SET criteria. EOI application form can be found here.

Please note that in assessing applications, equal weight will be given to the research proposal and the supervisory team/research environment; both must demonstrably fit the steer. The 12 highest scoring applicants will be asked to submit a full proposal.

Stage 2

Selected applicants will be asked to submit a full application – the form can be found on GradHub. The same weighting will be applied to the assessment of applications as at the EoI stage. The top 4 proposals will be funded and supervisors required to advertise studentships widely.

Appendix 1: ESRC Steers Award Marking Framework 2019

SGSSS -DTP Supervisor-led Steers Competition Award Marking Framework (2019)

	Research Proposal (OUT OF 10) (Please note that the descriptors can be used with discretion where there is a good case to do so) PLEASE NOTE THAT YOU SHOULD CONSIDER FIT WITH STEER CRITERIA IN ASSESSING THE PROPOSAL	Supervision & Training (Please score out of 5 - this will then be double weighted) PLEASE NOTE THAT YOU SHOULD CONSIDER FIT WITH STEER CRITERIA IN ASSESSING THE CONSTITUTION OF THE SUPERVISORY TEAM AND THE CONSIDERATION GIVEN TO ADVANCED TRAINING DURING THE COURSE OF THE PhD
Marking Criteria	**Candidate can demonstrate:** **An excellent proposal (MEETING THE STEER CRITERIA) 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.** **Plus**	
10	Proposal is exceptionally good in all of its components and fulfils criteria 7-9 below	
9	Proposal is highly original and innovative, at the cutting edge of developments substantively and methodologically, and fulfils criteria 7 and 8 below	

8	Proposal contains clear awareness of the potential impact of the research

and

fulfils criterion 7 below | |
| **7** | 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. The proposal should display an awareness of the research for economic and societal relevance. | |
| | Candidate can demonstrate:

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.

Plus | |
| **6** | 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. | |
| **5** | A promising proposal that suffers from several weaknesses. The methodology is appropriate but ill-expressed. The proposal is only weakly grounded in relevant literature. | Supervision arrangements represent a perfect 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. |

4	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.	Supervision arrangements represent a **very good 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 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.
3	A proposal with significant weaknesses in multiple components, little appreciation of possible methodologies, and/or awareness of relevant literature.	Supervision arrangements represent a **good** 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.
2	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.	Supervision arrangements represent an **adequate** 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 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.
1	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	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.

	interest in their subject.	