**Annex A – Studentship Application Form for 2025 Entry**

**IMPORTANT:**

**The closing date for applications to all our partner institutions is 12.00 (Noon) GMT Tuesday 14th January 2025**

**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 2024. 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 please 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/) **and the guidance notes at the beginning of Section A2, below.**

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and that you answer all the questions truthfully.** If not, your application is likely to be rejected or your funding withdrawn at any time in the future.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. The use of ChatGPT or other artificial intelligence (AI) tools to write any part of your research proposal is prohibited, with the exception of using grammar and spelling checking tools. 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. We reserve the right to check what you have written with other parties and with AI-detection software.

The SWDTP’s default rule is to not allow applications from candidates who have already started a postgraduate doctorate 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. However, unless stated otherwise on the form, other sections must also be completed and submitted at the time of the application, or your application will be rejected.

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 | [doctoraladmissions@bath.ac.uk](mailto:doctoraladmissions@bath.ac.uk) |
| Bristol | Please approach the school to which you are applying – contact details can be found on this page [Apply to the SWDTP | Faculty of Social Sciences and Law | University of Bristol](https://www.bristol.ac.uk/fssl/swdtp/apply/) |
| Exeter | [pgrapplicants@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:pgrapplicants@exeter.ac.uk) |
| Plymouth | [research.degree.admissions@plymouth.ac.uk](mailto:research.degree.admissions@plymouth.ac.uk) |
| UWE | [doctoralacademy@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:doctoralacademy@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 | [rke@marjon.ac.uk](mailto:rke@marjon.ac.uk) |

**(A1) About You**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** (as recorded on your Passport) | **Application number** *(if you have one)* | | |
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| **Preferred name** (if different from above) |  | | |
| **E-Mail Address** |  | | |
| **Alternative E-Mail Address** (if available) |  | | |
| **Are you applying as a ‘home’ (UK) or ‘overseas’ (international) student?** | HOME / OVERSEAS | | |
| **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 to which you are applying** ([ESRC funded studentships | SWDTP](https://www.swdtp.ac.uk/prospective-students-and-fellows/esrc-funded-studentships/)) | | | |
|  | | | |
| **Pathway to which you are applying** ([ESRC funded studentships | SWDTP](https://www.swdtp.ac.uk/prospective-students-and-fellows/esrc-funded-studentships/)) | | | |
|  | | | |
| **Are you applying to any other pathway?**  *(It is usual for only one application to be made. For instances when two applications are permitted, please first see our Guide to Applying to the South West Doctoral Training Partnership)* | | | YES / NO |
| **If YES:**  **Pathway:**  **Institution:** | | | |
| **Are you applying for full-time or part-time study?** *(Note: part-time is at a minimum of 50%)* | | FULL-TIME / PART-TIME | |
| **Does your research proposal fit with one of the following steers?** (please 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/)*). Please select one only or none. If your research potentially fits with more than one, then select the best fit.* | | | |
| **Data skills** | | | YES / NO |
| **Advanced Quantitative Methods** | | | YES / NO |

**(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 (either by a person or by a language-based model such as ChatGPT).
* We **strongly** recommend that you read 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/) and that you 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/). You will be reducing the prospect of being successful if you do not.
* 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/).
* The above does not preclude research that has an arts, humanities, science, engineering (and so forth) component but all research should be at least 50 per cent social science.
* 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 ([Our portfolio and priorities – UKRI](https://www.ukri.org/councils/esrc/remit-portfolio-and-priorities/our-research-portfolio-and-priorities/#contents-list)), 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 research that is proposed to contain a fieldwork budget, you must be realistic about the amount of funding that can be provided to support that fieldwork. We strongly recommend that you assume a budget not exceeding £4000. Please also note that we cannot fund research where the UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) advise against travel – see <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice> for the latest advice.
* 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.
* 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 our strategic steers – Advanced Quantitative Methods, Data Skills and Widening the Social Sciences – can be found in our Guide to Applying to the SWDTP 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/).

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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, and of ethical concerns and issues and how they will be navigated.*  *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 and included in that limit. Tables should be counted as the number of words they contain. You must not include an Appendix. 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) | | |
|  | | |
| **Time Management and Project Organisation** | | |
| ***The ESRC expects all PhDs should be submitted before their funding period ends****. Assuming a funding period of 3 years and 3 months (or the part-time equivalent of 6 years and 6 months) in which to undertake the PhD (this excludes any extra time given for a research placement or for any required skills training), please provide a Gantt chart of your project’s timeline and tasks and briefly outline what steps you will take to ensure the completion of your PhD is viable and will occur within this period.*  ------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------- | | |
| **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 Sociotechnical Futures & Digital Methods; Global Challenges & Transformations: geopolitics, inequalities & mobilities; Health, Wellbeing & Society; and, Climate Change, Sustainability & 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)*  -------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------- | | |
| **Data skills or Advanced Quantitative Methods** | | |
| *If you have indicated that you research proposal fits within either the Data Skills or Advanced Quantitative Methods steers, with reference to the definition of those steers given in* [How do I Apply for a Studentship? | SWDTP](https://www.swdtp.ac.uk/prospective-students-and-fellows/how-do-i-apply-for-a-studentship/) *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 and Difficult Language Training** | | |
| *If you have plans for overseas fieldwork, 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.*  ***Please note: the amount we can pay for overseas fieldwork is limited. We strongly recommend that you assume a budget not exceeding £4000.*** ***Please also note that we cannot fund research where the UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) advise against travel – see*** [***https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice***](https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice) ***for the latest advice.***  -------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------- | | |
| **Plans for Overseas Institutional Visits** | | |
| *If you have plans for overseas institutional visits, 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*?  ***Please note: the amount we can pay for overseas institutional visits is limited. We strongly recommend that you assume a budget not exceeding £4000. Please also note that we cannot fund visits to where the UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) advise against travel – see*** [***https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice***](https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice) ***for the latest advice.***  -------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------- | | |
| **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)*  -------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------- | | |
| **(Optional and for home [UK] students only)**  **Widening the social sciences** | | |
| *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 through our doctoral training partnership. 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. Reflecting on your own background, interests and/or proposed research, outline how will you contribute to diversity and inclusion within the SWDTP and/or to widening knowledge and understanding in the social sciences (250 words max).*  ***Please note: Any information you share is not confidential as this application form will be read and shared with others during the shortlisting and allocation process. It will, however, be treated sensitively and in a non-derogatory way.***  -------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------- | | |

**(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) 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.* |

**(A5) 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. We review the information provided by applicants who have been selected for a scholarship and, where there are gaps in previous training, can direct you to the teaching modules and provide additional funding to help fill them. 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 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 |  |  |  | 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 |  |  |  | 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 |  |  |  | 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 |  |  |  | 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 |  |  |  | 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 |  |  |  | Within the past year / 1 to <3 years ago / 3+ years ago / Never |
| *Ethical and legal issues* | High / Intermediate / Low / None |  |  |  | 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 |  |  |  | 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 |  |  |  | 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 |  |  |  | Within the past year / 1 to <3 years ago / 3+ years ago / Never |
| *Historical, comparative and archival methods* | High / Intermediate / Low / None |  |  |  | Within the past year / 1 to <3 years ago / 3+ years ago / Never |
| *Discourse, content, or narrative analysis* | High / Intermediate / Low / None |  |  |  | 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 |  |  |  | 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 |  |  |  | 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 |  |  |  | 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 |  |  |  | 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 |  |  |  | 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 |  |  |  | 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 |  |  |  | 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 |  |  |  | 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 |  |  |  | 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 |  |  |  | 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 |  |  |  | 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 |  |  |  | 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 |  |  |  | Within the past year / 1 to <3 years ago / 3+ years ago / Never |

**(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.*  *-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------* |
| Because the information you provide as part of your application will be shared with other institutions in the SWDTP partnership for purposes of shortlisting and allocating studentships, we are unable to process your application without this. |
| ☐ Please X to consent to us using your information in this way. |

**NOTE: FUNDING APPLICATION DEADLINE: 12.00 (Noon) GMT Tuesday 14th January 2025**

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.

☐ Send 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 **Monday 12th February 2025**. References are to be sent to the institution to which you are applying:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Bath | [doctoraladmissions@bath.ac.uk](mailto:doctoraladmissions@bath.ac.uk) |
| Bristol | Please approach the school to which you are applying – contact details can be found on this page [Apply to the SWDTP | Faculty of Social Sciences and Law | University of Bristol](https://www.bristol.ac.uk/fssl/swdtp/apply/) |
| Exeter | [pgrapplicants@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:pgrapplicants@exeter.ac.uk) |
| Plymouth | [research.degree.admissions@plymouth.ac.uk](mailto:research.degree.admissions@plymouth.ac.uk) |
| UWE | [doctoralacademy@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:doctoralacademy@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 | [rke@marjon.ac.uk](mailto:rke@marjon.ac.uk) |