White Rose Social Sciences DTP

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Collaborative and Network Awards 2020 - 2021

White Rose Doctoral Training Partnership
October 2019

Professor Ruth Blakeley (WRDTP Director)

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The WRDTP

- One of 14 DTPs commissioned from 2017 for 6 years
- Leeds, Sheffield, York, Sheffield Hallam, Bradford, Hull and Manchester Met
- WRDTP offers 59 awards in total, i.e. 41 Pathway Awards (50% match-funded by the partner institutions), 4 Advanced Quantitative Methods Awards, 1 Network Award (3 studentships 50% match-funded by WRUC), plus 11 Collaborative Awards
- The DTP grant for the 6-year period amounts to around £20 million

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The WRDTP: Ambition

- Interdisciplinarity:

"Building on the WRDTC track record of establishing a vibrant social science PGR community, WRDTP students will be supported and encouraged to consider themselves members of both discipline and interdisciplinary thematic communities of scholarship across the participating universities and within their respective departments and schools. Students will be embedded in research centres and groups within their home schools or departments, but will also benefit from being part of broader international communities of scholarship, drawn from the seven participating institutions" (Case for Support).

- Broad Training Offer:
  - Generic and Advanced Research training
  - Discipline level training
  - Interdisciplinary training through Pathway
  - Research leadership

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The WRDTP: Ambition

- Meaningful collaboration with Academic and Non-Academic Partners, local, national and international
- WRDTP also envisioned as a vehicle for research development and collaboration for academic staff
- It should open up opportunities for truly interdisciplinary work, collaboration with non-academic partners, and impact
- Exciting grant bids to funding councils should emanate from the WRDTP, e.g. to GCRF and Industrial Strategy funding streams

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Why collaborate?

- WRDTP is committed to ensuring as many students as possible can engage with non-academic partners
- UK HE funders prioritising research that involves meaningful collaboration beyond academia
- UK funders also prioritising research that involve interdisciplinary teams
- Collaborative and Network awards provide WRDTP academics and their students opportunities to strengthen their ties beyond the academy *and* beyond their own discipline
- This has many benefits, such as generating research impact, broadening research networks, & opening up exciting career opportunities for WRDTP graduates

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Collaborative Awards

- 11 awards available across the WRDTP
- The award is for an ESRC-funded studentship for either a 1+3 or +3 award
- Academic colleagues can develop the research proposal, and if awarded the studentship, can recruit the most highly qualified student
- The proposal must include a meaningful collaboration with a partner in the private, public or third sectors
- Link with partners does not have to involve funding but must involve meaningful opportunities for the student, e.g. internships, placements
- The partner must also be involved in regular, collaborative supervision
- Partners are expected to meet any travel, subsistence & accommodation costs the student incurs
- Contracts with partners are required & can take months to negotiate, so please flag with partners early on

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Interdisciplinary Pathways

- Cities, Environment and Liveability
- Security, Conflict and Justice
- Education, Childhood and Youth
- Data, Communication and New Technologies
- Wellbeing, Health and Communities
- Sustainable Growth, Management and Economic Productivity
- Civil Society, Development and Democracy

NB Full details on WRDTP website, and do seek advice from Pathway Directors on fit with the Pathway

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Applying for Collaborative Awards

- Deadline: 12:00 hours on 6 December 2019
- Before submission to the WRDTP, all proposals must go through an internal process of peer review, due to the highly competitive nature of this competition
- Applicants must then complete the WRDTP Collaborative Awards 2020-21 – Proposal Form (google form), including 2 File Uploads
- Recommend downloading form and completing in full before copying across to Google Doc, since the form can only be completed in one sitting. This should also be used for the peer review stage
- Applications must include a letter/email from the intended partner, indicating how they intend to support the collaboration, in as much detail as possible. This is to be uploaded to the Google form when instructed.
- Applications must also confirm they are supported by your Head of Department

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What are we looking for?

- Evidence of excellence in terms of the extent and nature of the collaboration
- Evidence of strategic excellence in that the partnership will add value to the WRDTP, broadening and deepening the range of partnerships
- Evidence of research excellence: significance, originality, feasibility of study, research design, ethics considerations, likely impacts
- Evidence of meaningful engagement with Pathway: fit with and development of Pathway research strategy
- Evidence of supervisor excellence: suitability and experience of the supervisory team. Due consideration will be given to the supervisory team to ensure that there is suitable experience and research excellence in the specific project area.
- Evidence of excellence in training: appropriateness and quality of the training provided

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Applying: Tips and Advice

- Non-specialists will assess applications, so they must be jargon-free
- Feasibility of study:
  - Clear account of methodology, methods and data sources
  - Scale – appropriate to PhD student
  - Clear account of any research ethics issues and how they will be managed

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Network Awards

- 1 Network Award available to promote collaboration across the Universities of Leeds, York and Sheffield
- The Award is aimed at supporting interdisciplinary research excellence and developing critical mass in key research area, and is co-funded by the White Rose University Consortium
- The Award will fund one new Network with three ESRC 1+3 or +3 studentships and 6 supervisors, with one academic acting as the Network Leader
- Each of the three studentships is bilateral and must involve two supervisors, a principal supervisor per White Rose institution and a co-supervisor at the partner institution
- The Network must also involve meaningful collaboration with an external partner from the private, public or third sectors

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Partner role

- Must include a meaningful collaboration with a partner in the private, public or third sectors
- Link with partners does not have to involve funding but must involve meaningful opportunities for the student, e.g. internships, placements, knowledge exchange (and not just data collection)
- Collaborative partners should be involved in the development of the project
- Partners are expected to meet any travel, subsistence & accommodation costs the student incurs

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What are we looking for?

- Evidence of Network excellence: significance, originality & coherence of the proposed network & three research projects
- Evidence of Pathway excellence: fit with, and development of, pathway research strategy
- Evidence of Supervisor excellence: the suitability and experience of the supervisory team. Due consideration will be given to the supervisory team to ensure that there is suitable experience and research excellence in the specific project area.
- Evidence of Training excellence: appropriateness and quality of training provided
- Evidence of Collaborative excellence: collaboration with non-academic partner and the extent and nature of the interaction with other networks and stakeholders
- Evidence of Sustainability excellence: Potential for engagement / impact / future funding

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Sustainability of Network

- A Network must meet 3 times per year, & students receive additional RTSG to fund travel, so details should be included in the 'Network Operations' section of the application
- Clarity needed on nature of the collaboration with external partners, including in-kind contributions and involvement in supervision
- Applications should demonstrate how the network will engaging with wider networks, particularly relevant Interdisciplinary Pathways
- We are particularly interested in how the Network will help build capacity, future research projects & funding bids
- Section on each student project is brief, but must nevertheless demonstrate quality and originality of proposed research
- Same advice applies as for Collaborative Awards!

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What's in it for you?

- Exciting opportunity to build a research team
- Play a central role in bringing forward a new generation of outstanding scholars
- Fully-funded studentship and support to engage meaningfully with non-academic partners
- Credibility as a research leader engaging in interdisciplinary, collaborative research
- Track record in these areas for future UK funding council grants and awards
- Fun!