

# **White Rose Doctoral Training Partnership Methods Director**

## **About the WRDTP and its research methods training**

The WRDTP is a partnership of seven universities, which brings together the Universities of Bradford, Hull, Leeds, Manchester Metropolitan, Sheffield Hallam, Sheffield and York to deliver cutting edge social science training to postgraduate researchers. Each year we offer a range of funding opportunities that lead to the award of a PhD, and which enable students to acquire the skills that they need to flourish as researchers in a range of academic and non-academic years. All of our training is open to all social science PGRs in the partnership, regardless of funding status.

We offer cohort-wide training, which includes a programme of specialist methods training in the areas of advanced qualitative methods, advanced quantitative methods, and advanced data analytics. This training is organised and overseen by our three Methods Directors, who are each responsible for one of these areas. This cohort-wide programme of training complements the training offered by our seven thematic interdisciplinary pathways, which bring together researchers to address the most pressing challenges facing the world today. In line with our commitments to the ESRC, we also organise a small number of advanced research methods training events that are opened up to students beyond the WRDTP.

## **About the Methods Director role**

Each of our three methods areas is led by a Methods Director, who is responsible for organising an annual programme of advanced research methods training in their particular area of responsibility (i.e. advanced qualitative methods, advanced quantitative methods, or advanced data analytics). Each Director is supported by a small number of Deputy Directors, based in universities across the partnership. Working collaboratively, the Methods Director and their Deputies ensure that the programme of methods training and development offered is innovative, inclusive and engaging; and of relevance to PGRs across the partnership and pathways.

The role of Methods Director will be taken up by an academic colleague with:

- enthusiasm for research methods training and a genuine commitment to PGR support and development.
- relevant experience of the delivery of high-quality PGR training and support.
- energy, creativity and engagement with cutting-edge research methods relevant to the area of responsibility (i.e. advanced qualitative methods, advanced quantitative methods, or advanced data analytics).
- a background in relevant interdisciplinary social research.
- experience or understanding of effective cross-institutional working.
- an understanding of the wider research funding and sectoral landscape.

The Methods Director is appointed by the WRDTP following open competition across our seven partner universities. Methods Directors can be from any of the departments and schools that have been formally accredited by the WRDTP. When making an appointment, attention will be paid to the overall composition of the team to ensure equitable and distributed representation of our partner universities.

## **Workload and tenure**

The role of Methods Director has an indicative workload of 0.2 FTE attached to it. This is to provide role-holders and line managers with a realistic sense of the time that is required to undertake the role. The term is for three years, with the expectation that post-holders continue in role during periods of study leave and similar.

At the point of application, applicants should confirm that their Head of Department/School supports the 0.2 FTE indicative workload allocation. Once the appointment has been made, the WRDTP will ask the Head of Department/School for confirmation that the role-holder will have sufficient time to commit to the role.

The WRDTP fully recognises that workload allocation models and tariffs are institutional matters; and that different institutions may have different conventions for 'workloading' external commitments. Whilst the WRDTP does not want to specify how roles are incorporated into workload models, it is important that role-holders have the time necessary to fulfil the role.

## **Specific responsibilities**

### *Deliver an annual programme of cutting-edge methods training*

- Provide pathway leadership and model behaviours concerning working across disciplines, engaging in cutting-edge debates, and utilising innovative approaches.
- Working collaboratively with the Methods Deputy Directors, plan and deliver an annual programme of advanced research methods training, ensuring that this offer is broad-based and innovative, so that PGRs have the opportunity to experience a variety of established and cutting-edge research methods and tools. There is a minimum expectation that 4 events per year are offered by each Methods team per year.
- Work with the other Methods Directors to offer joint training and events that cross-cut methodological divides and respond to contemporary social challenges.
- Working with the WRDTP Deputy Director (Training and Development), other Methods Directors and Pathway Directors, use the information captured by the WRDTP Development Needs Analysis process to ensure that the methods training provision is aligned to the development needs of students.
- Working with the WRDTP Deputy Director (Training and Development) and WRDTP Director (EDI), ensure that the methods training offered is accessible and inclusive, taking into account the different learning needs and styles of the PGR community.
- Working with the other Methods Directors, organise a small number of advanced research methods training events that are opened up to students beyond the WRDTP. There is a minimum expectation that one training session or event for each area of methods will be offered on an open basis per year.
- Provide relevant and engaging content (reading material, podcasts, videos) to support research methods training activities, which can be hosted via the WRDTP website. This should include accessible 'bite sized' materials that can be shared beyond the WRDTP.

### *Promote student engagement and networks*

- Signpost students to relevant research training opportunities, e.g. research seminars and workshops, guest lectures, conferences, specialist training.

- Engage with relevant external stakeholders to consider how PGR training can be opened up and shared beyond the WRDTP. This could include other DTPs, the National Centre for Research Methods, the UK Data Service or similar.

#### *Support WRDTP activities*

- Take a leading role in the organisation and/or delivery of cohort-wide WRDTP research methods events, in particular the annual Advanced Research Methods Taster Day. Other cohort-wide events include the Welcome Day, Working Beyond Disciplines workshop and the Annual Conference.
- Assess a share of applications to the annual WRDTP studentship competitions, ensuring that applications are treated in a fair, rigorous and timely way, in accordance with the WRDTP assessment criteria.
- As required, participate in assessment panels for WRDTP studentship competitions.

#### *Governance and reporting*

- Maintain oversight of the methods training budget.
- Attend and actively participate in the WRDTP Training Group. There are approximately four meetings per year, including the annual planning event. Two events per year are in-person, rotating across WRDTP partner universities.
- Provide annual progress reports to Training Group, which will then be shared with the Academic Quality Committee.

**WRDTP  
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