

# White Rose Doctoral Training Partnership Pathway Director

## About the WRDTP and its Pathways

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.

The WRDTP is organised [around seven interdisciplinary pathways](#), which bring together researchers to address the most pressing challenges facing the world today. These pathways are integral to the WRDTP's PGR training and development offer. Pathway training enables our PGRs to engage critically with research outside their own specific discipline; be exposed to the latest cutting-edge methods in the field; provides important opportunities for networking, dissemination and impact; and facilitates the development of engaged cohorts committed to tackling common concerns.

## About the Pathway Director role

Each of our pathways is led by a Pathway Director, who is responsible for delivering a pathway-specific programme that is cutting edge and responsive to students' training and development needs. Each Director is supported by a small number of Deputy Directors, based in universities across the partnership. Working collaboratively, the Pathway Director and their Deputies ensure that the programme of Pathway training and development offered is innovative, inclusive and engaging; and of relevance to PGRs working on a range of cognate issues that fall within a pathway's remit. Pathway Directors also play a leading role in promoting student engagement and networks.

The role of Pathway 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 debates in their field.
- a background in interdisciplinary research relevant to their Pathway.
- experience or understanding of effective cross-institutional working.
- an understanding of the wider research funding and sectoral landscape.

The Pathway Director is appointed by the WRDTP following open competition across our seven partner universities. Pathway 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 Pathway 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 pathway training*

- Provide pathway leadership and model behaviours concerning working across disciplines, engaging in cutting-edge debates, and utilising innovative approaches.
- Working collaboratively with the team of pathway deputy directors, plan and deliver an annual programme of pathway-focused training, ensuring that this offer is pluralist and innovative, so that PGRs have the opportunity to explore a wide range of disciplinary and theoretical perspectives, and engage with cutting-edge research methods. There is a minimum expectation that 4 events per year are offered by each pathway team per year.
- Work with the other Pathway Directors to offer joint training and events that cross-cut pathways and respond to contemporary social challenges.
- Working with the WRDTP Deputy Director (Training and Development), Methods Directors and other Pathway Directors, use the information captured by the WRDTP Development Needs Analysis process to ensure that the pathway's 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 pathway training offered is accessible and inclusive, taking into account the different learning needs and styles of the PGR community.
- Provide relevant and engaging content (reading material, podcasts, videos) to support pathway-focused 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*

- Provide opportunities for pathway students to share their work and receive peer support, e.g. workshops, reading circles.
- Promote the WRDTP and Pathway activities through well-managed Pathway student email lists.
- 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 pathway-way specific activities or sessions within cohort-wide WRDTP events, in particular the Welcome Day, the Working Beyond Disciplines workshop and the Annual Conference.
- Assess a share of applications to the annual WRDTP Pathway Studentship competition, 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 Pathway 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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