

South and East Network of Social Sciences (SENSS) Doctoral Training Partnership

SENSS ESRC-FUNDED DATA SKILLS & ADVANCED QUANTITATIVE METHODS STUDENTSHIPS

SENSS invites applications for Data Skills and Advanced Quantitative Methods (AQM) ring-fenced studentships. The DTP has received ESRC funding for a minimum of three studentships in each of these two areas:

- Data Skills studentships refer to the use large datasets, linked administrative datasets ([ADR UK](#) - Administrative Data Research UK, which is part of the ESRC) and/or big data methods and associated innovative analytical methods.
- AQM-steered studentships refer to the development and use of advanced quantitative methods in economic and social research.

1. Eligibility

- The usual ESRC residential eligibility rules apply.
- The duration of these awards will be between +3.5 and +4.5-years. If the applicant is applying for a +3.5, they will need to show that their past research methods training is appropriate for their proposed project.
- They are available to any applicant across any Theme, so long as their application is Data Skills or AQM-based.

2. Application process

The competition for these awards will run in exactly the same way as the main student-led competition, and the same timeline will apply. The only differences are as follows:

- Those wishing to be considered for the ring-fenced Data Skills or AQM studentships must indicate on their application form that they plan to use Data Skills or AQM in their PhD research;
- Applicants whose projects are Data Skills or AQM-based must specifically address this in their research proposal which forms part of their studentship application. That is, they must set out how their proposal will use Data Skills or AQM; and,
- Their supervisors must confirm (in their supporting statements) that the applicant will be using Data Skills or AQM in their research, and how.

3. ESRC criteria against which Data Skills or AQM applications should be judged (at least one of the following MUST apply):

Evidence that the use of large data sets is central to your research proposal: you must have described the existing data sets that you intend to use in your research, including at least one ESRC-funded data resource or infrastructure (please see the list on page 3 of this document for the list of eligible ESRC-funded data resources and infrastructure). You must have explained why these datasets are the best ones available to address your research questions / hypotheses. This should include some reference to whether or how far your proposed research will build on existing analyses using such data sets, and the capacity of your work to use under-exploited data sets. You must also have demonstrated your experience of, and planned training in, using large data sets.

Evidence that your research will make use of linked administrative datasets: As part of its development and increased provision of linked administrative datasets available for research, [ADR UK](#) (Administrative Data Research UK, which is part of the ESRC) will be offering learning opportunities linked to specific administrative data assets and data collections. You must have explained why linked administrative data approaches are particularly suited to the research questions / hypotheses you have listed in your proposal and why and how these approaches enhance and/or are complementary to more traditional sources of data.

Evidence that big data and associated data analysis skills are central to your research proposal: you must have explained why big data approaches are particularly suited to the research questions / hypotheses you have listed in your proposal and why and how these approaches enhance and/or are complementary to more traditional sources of data. If you plan to develop new and/or innovative and/or enhanced methods of analysis for such data, you must describe how you will do this, and what the impact of these new or enhanced methods will be. You must also have demonstrated your experience of, and planned training in, working with big data and/or your experience of, and planned training in, the associated data analyses.

Evidence that your research proposal is AQM-based: you must describe the relevance of particular AQMs to the main research questions presented in the proposal and demonstrate both how AQMs are vital to exploring your research question and your experience of, and planned training in, these methods. This should include information about the kind of quantitative methodology and analysis that you intend to focus on, your current level of proficiency in core quantitative methods, and how your advanced skills are intended to be used to address problems in new or innovative ways.

Eligible ESRC-funded data resources and infrastructure

Please note all resources are accessible via the UK Data Service

(www.ukdataservice.ac.uk/) or ADR UK (www.adruk.org/) unless stated otherwise.

Longitudinal resources

- British Household Panel Survey
- Understanding Society
- 1958 National Child Development Survey
- British Cohort Study 1970
- Next Steps (Longitudinal Study of Young Persons in England)
- Millennium Cohort Study
- UK Census Longitudinal Studies (<http://calls.ac.uk/guides-resources/applying-to-use-the-iss/>)
- English Longitudinal Study of Ageing

Biosocial resources

- Understanding Society Biosocial Sweep
- 1958 National Child Development Study Biosocial Sweep
- English Longitudinal Study of Ageing Genome-Wide Association Study
- Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children (www.bristol.ac.uk/alspac/researchers/data-access/)

Big Data resources

- Administrative Data Research Network (www.adruk.org)
- Business and Local Government Data Research Centre (www.blqdataresearch.org)
- Consumer Data Research Centre (www.cdrc.ac.uk)
- Urban Big Data Centre (www.ubdc.ac.uk)

Election resources

- British Election Study
- British election study ethnic minority surveys
- Scottish Election Studies
- Welsh Election Studies
- Northern Ireland Election Study
- Scottish Referendum Study
- Local Election Studies Database

Employment resources

- Skills and Employment Survey Series
- Workplace Employment Relations Surveys

International comparative resources

- European Social Survey
- Harmonised European Time Use Study 2000 (The data from the Harmonised European Time Use Study 2015 will be available from March 2016 and will offer comparative opportunities through a harmonised dataset)
- International Social Survey Programme (www.gesis.org/en/issp/home/)
- Multinational Time Use Study (<http://www.timeuse.org/mtus.html>)

Linguistics resources

- British National Corpus
- British Sign Language Corpus

Qualitative resources

- Timescapes (<http://timescapes.researchdata.leeds.ac.uk/>)
- Poverty and Social Exclusion Qualitative Surveys
- Ritual, Community and Conflict Ethnographic Dataset on Ritual (www.icea.ox.ac.uk/fundedprojects/ritual00/data/ethnographic-resources/)
- Access Research Knowledge Qualitative Archives on Ageism and Conflict (www.ark.ac.uk/qual/ageism/)

Other resources

- Poverty and Social Exclusion in the UK: Research Surveys 2012
- Northern Ireland Life and Times
- Kids' Life and Times
- Young Life and Times Survey