

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

Student-Led Competition: Widening Participation Criteria for determining additional nomination(s) at institutional review phase

To try to ensure that our postgraduate researcher cohort represents the diversity in our communities, SENSS particularly invites applicants who meet at least one of the following criteria to apply for a studentship:

- You regard yourself as being i) of African or Caribbean origin, for example, 'Black British', 'Black-African', 'Black-Caribbean', or 'Other Black' background (including people of 'Mixed' heritage) or, ii) 'Asian' background.
- You come from one of the most deprived areas of the UK as indicated by data collected for your home postcode at which you lived the longest before first attending university (POLAR4 Quintiles 1 and 2).
- You have a disability as defined under the Equality Act 2010, which states that you are disabled if "you have a physical or mental impairment that has a 'substantial' and 'long-term' negative effect on your ability to do normal daily activities".
- You're a carer who has significant, unpaid caring responsibilities which have a substantial impact on your life. You are responsible for the long-term care and support of a child, a disabled, elderly, or sick partner, relative, or friend, who is unable to care for themselves. This may be due to an illness, disability (whether physical or mental), or substance misuse.
- You have been in public care for a minimum of three months since the age of 11 and will be under the age of 25 on the course start date. Time spent in care could refer to foster care, residential care (mainly children's homes) or other arrangements outside the immediate or extended family.

As part of its widening participation strategy, each SENSS university will be encouraged to put forward **up to two additional studentship nominations per interdisciplinary thematic area** it belongs to in addition to its usual cap of three nominations:

- The fourth candidate must be a: a) home candidate who b) meets at least one of the agreed criteria listed above.
- A fifth candidate may be nominated, so long as they are a: a) home candidate who b) is also a BAME candidate.

To be considered for an additional nomination (which is no guarantee of a studentship award), applicants must ensure they **complete their equal opportunities form** as part of their SENSS studentship application, as this form will be used to identify their application as a possible additional nomination at institutional review.

This additional nomination will be considered by the interdisciplinary thematic group in the usual way along with all the other applications. This group will NOT have access to the applicant's personal data and will NOT be told which the additional nomination is. The applicant's personal data will continue to be kept confidential by the SENSS core staff team throughout the remainder of the competition. **No decision-makers beyond the institutional review phase will have access to any equal opportunities data.**