ESRC SeNSS Funding Applicant Briefing

20th November 2018

Dr Fragkiskos Filippaios, Social Sciences Associate Dean
ESRC SeNSS Funding

- The Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) currently provides funding for around 500 new postgraduate students each year through a network of 14 Doctoral Training Partnerships (DTPs).

- Kent is part of the South-East Network for Social Sciences (SeNSS) ESRC DTP with East Anglia, Essex, Reading Surrey, Sussex, Goldsmiths, Royal Holloway, City and Roehampton.

- Over 50 ESRC SeNSS studentships awarded in 2018.
What does SeNSS offer?

• Innovative and challenging world-class doctoral training in a dynamic, inter-disciplinary research environment

• Subject-specific, generic, and advanced training in elite training facilities, tailored to your individual needs

• Access to all 10 institutions in the DTP

• An existing network of over 200 external organisations, offering collaboration and work placement opportunities (e.g. Sage, Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology)

• Opportunities for overseas visits and fieldwork, attending and presenting at annual conferences and events, and academic publishing

• Virtual Learning Environment (VLE)
2017 Studentships

Kent offers SeNSS funded studentships in 9 disciplines:

• Business and Management Studies
• Linguistics
• Politics and International Relations
• Psychology
• Science, Technology and Sustainability Studies*
• Social Anthropology
• Social Work and Social Policy
• Socio-Legal Studies
• Sociology
Science, Technology and Sustainability Pathway

• The Science, Technology and Sustainability (STS) Pathway combines research training in the ESRC disciplinary area of Science and Technology Studies with interdisciplinary training to enable students to address the interconnected social, economic and environmental challenges and biodiversity conservation.

• The pathway includes Kent's Durrell Institute of Conservation & Ecology (DICE) in the School of Anthropology and Conservation which provides expertise in a range of social science approaches to addressing sustainability.
What does SeNSS funding provide?

- The grant covers the cost of a studentship based on fees (£4,121) and maintenance (£14,777) (this year).
- Successful applicants can draw on a Research Training Support Grant (RTSG) – notional value £750 pa.
- Applicants can apply for additional funds to cover Difficult Language Training and Overseas Fieldwork (must be included in original SeNSS application)
- Induction for new SeNSS students and annual summer conference
- Student-led events and discipline-specific activities
Programme structures and study modes

- **1+3 Studentship**
  - one-year Master’s degree and a three-year PhD (all disciplines) (Kent Master’s programmes are ESRC compliant)

- **+3 Studentship**
  - three-year PhD (all disciplines)
  - (must have met ESRC’s core Master’s training requirements)

- **+4 Studentship**
  - comprises both core and advanced training within the PhD programme (Politics)

- **Full-time or Part-time**

- **If you have already begun your PhD**
  - You may apply for a studentship even if you have already begun your PhD, provided that, at the start of your award in October 2018, you have at least 50% of your period of study remaining (excluding your ‘writing up’ period); AND your structure of study is either a +3 studentship or a +4 studentship.

- **You can do your Master’s at a different institution**
  - You must apply to the institution where you want to do your PhD
Residential Eligibility

- SeNSS funding is only available to Home or EU students who meet the RCUK eligibility criteria.

- To be eligible for a full award you must have:
  - Settled status in the UK, meaning there are no restrictions on how long you can stay in the UK; **AND**
  - Been ‘ordinarily resident’ in the UK for 3 years prior to 30 September 2018, when the studentship starts. 'Ordinarily resident' means that you must have been normally residing in the UK (apart from any temporary or occasional absences).

- EU students who have not been resident in the UK for 3 years prior to 30 September 2018 may be eligible for a fees-only award.
SeNSS Application Process

1. **Discuss** your research proposal with the School Director of Graduate Studies and Prospective Supervisor (ASAP)

2. **Apply** for a PhD place at Kent *(20th January 2019)*
   
   Web link: [www.kent.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/apply/](http://www.kent.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/apply/)

3. Schools shortlist and interview PhD candidates

4. Successful candidates complete SeNSS online application
## Key studentship competition dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20th January</td>
<td>Applicants must have applied for a place on the relevant PhD programme to be considered for SeNSS funding.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21st Jan – 4th Feb</td>
<td>Selection process in academic schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By 4th Feb</td>
<td>Applicants notified of school-level selection process outcome.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6th – 13th Feb</td>
<td>Candidates selected for submission to the SeNSS studentship competition complete SeNSS online application form</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21st Feb – 7th March</td>
<td>Applications considered and ranked by SeNSS pathway panels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27th March</td>
<td>SeNSS Management Board agrees which candidates will receive SeNSS studentships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29th March</td>
<td>Students advised of competition outcome</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Completing the SeNSS Application

- Discuss your research proposal with your supervisor
- Incorporate feedback from your interview in your application
- Read the SeNSS application guidance notes in FluidReview so you know what to expect.

- Application has 4 stages: application form, supervisor statement and 2 references. These must be completed in sequence: the application form task must be complete before you can request references and the supervisor statement.
- Supervisor and referees are auto-emailed to request their statements
- Most importantly – focus on developing a strong research proposal
Research Proposal

• Research Proposal Title – maximum 80 characters

• Research Proposal Abstract – maximum 3,800 characters

• Research Proposal – maximum 10,000 characters

• Personal Statement
Assessment Criteria

The following three categories of criteria will be used to assess applications across all pathways and degree formats

• Evidence of the quality and feasibility of the proposal (40%)
• Evidence that you are well-prepared for your proposed research and future career (40%)
• Evidence of the suitability of the proposed supervision and training (20%)
Key Contacts

- Dr Fragkiskos Filippaios – Social Sciences Associate Dean (Graduate Studies) and SeNSS Academic Lead (ff@kent.ac.uk)
- Julia Gavriel – Graduate School Administrator and SeNSS Administrative Lead until 31 December 2018 (jhg21@kent.ac.uk)
- Rosalind Beeching – Acting Head of Graduate School Administration
  SeNSS Administrative Lead from 1 January 2019 (crb@kent.ac.uk)