



UPTAKE Training School

15-22 January 2017

Call for Applications

Within the framework of the [H2020 UPTAKE Project](#), we are happy to announce a Call for Applications for the first **UPTAKE PhD Training School (TS)**, to be held from **15 to 22 January 2016** at the University of Kent, Canterbury (UK). Its main objective is to offer an opportunity for further skills development and exchange of ideas for PhD and Postdoctoral students working in the field of Russian and East European Studies.

The theme of the 1st Training School is '**Post-communist transformations, models of development and implications for an emerging multi-order world**'. The new EU Global Security Strategy (2016) notes how the contemporary world is becoming increasingly more connected, contested and complex, shifting from a multi-polar to a multi-order international system. The emerging centres of power may be different not only in their political and economic arrangements, but more so, in their cultural and normative terms. In this vein, how do post-communist transformations fit in? What models of development – cultural, political, historical and socio-economic – do they offer, and how these models/orders align with the established (western) 'normal'? In this Training School we will therefore seek to understand developments across the former Soviet space and whether they present a new normative challenge. We adopt an **interdisciplinary approach** inviting students from different scholarly backgrounds to apply (including but not limited to Politics, History, Sociology, Cultural Studies and Economy).

The Training School is run in an ECPR format, offering an in-depth discussion around submitted papers, with the **best papers published** in the format of on-line conference proceedings. The discussion sessions will be supplemented by skills development opportunities and social activities. More specifically, **the Training School will include:**

- Paper presentations with time for an in-depth feedback. Unlike most conferences, the TS will provide an opportunity to present your work thoroughly, and to have a personal feedback session. Each presenter will receive up to one hour for speaking and question time.
- The sessions will be complemented by short research introductions into the work of Senior Scholars of the School of Politics and IR at Kent
- Four skills training sessions, delivered by experts in the field: (1) Conducting fieldwork in post-Soviet region; (2) Innovative research methods; (3) Networking skills; (4) Media training.

- Two social and networking events, tentatively including a trip to London, and a day trip to a Historic Kent attraction.
- There will be plenty of time for socialising, including two dinner nights and tours around Canterbury, to foster collaboration between the UPTAKE PhD and Post-Doc researchers.

Places are limited, with a maximum of 20 participants. Participation from Kent, Tartu and Uppsala Universities is funded by the UPTAKE project, subject to the eligibility criteria.¹ Funding includes travel, accommodation and food in Canterbury. External participation is strongly encouraged, and applications are invited through the BISA Russian and Eurasian Working Group, or directly to the UPTAKE contact person. External participants will need to secure funding by themselves.

In order to apply, please fill in the form attached and return it to Eske van Gils before **Friday 14 October 2016**, via eeav2@kent.ac.uk. Submission of papers will be invited by **16 December 2016** to ensure a guaranteed place at the Training School.

¹ The eligibility criteria include: (i) paper suitability to the Call's theme; (ii) academic merit of the paper; (iii) motivation letter; and (iv) level of PhD completion (final year students will be given priority)