



**London Interdisciplinary Social Science
Doctoral Training Partnership**

LISS DTP ESRC Postdoctoral Fellowship Application Overview

<https://liss-dtp.ac.uk/esrc-pdf/>

Introduction to LISS DTP

- Partnership between King's College London, Queen Mary University of London, and Imperial College London.
- Commissioned and funded by the ESRC and institutional investment, with up to 58 PhD studentships & 4 postdoctoral fellowships offered annually.
- Social science training at the interface with health, the natural and physical sciences, engineering, and the arts and humanities.



Research Areas

LISS Research Areas	
RA1	Global Health Innovation
RA2	Business Analytics, Management, and Applied Economics
RA3	Language, Culture, and Education
RA4	Environment and Sustainability
RA5	Global Order and Security
RA 6	Public Policy and Governance

<https://liss-dtp.ac.uk/research-areas/>

Postdoctoral Fellowships

- Four ESRC funded Fellowships to be awarded.
- The Fellowship must be based at a LISS DTP Partner Institution; King's College London, Queen Mary University of London, or Imperial College London.



Purpose

- **Consolidate your PhD**
 - Publication of articles and/or book based on PhD.
 - Communicate PhD findings to range of audiences.
- **Prepare you for the next stage of your career**
 - Develop professional and transferable skills
 - Further training to improve research and related skills
 - Research visits to internationally leading research organisations – either in the UK or abroad
 - Developing funding proposals
 - Conduct further limited research (up to 25%) related to PhD
 - Teaching, if this is aligned with the wider purposes of the fellowship (up to six hours per week)

What's on offer?

- **Length**
 - 1-year full-time
 - 2 years part-time (only if this is your usual pattern of working) – cannot hold other employment
 - Exceptionally 18 months but must be fully justified by the programme of activities being proposed
- **Costs**
 - Postdoc's salary (+ indirect & estates costs)
 - £10,000 of other costs
 - Mentor's salary, travel and subsistence, conference attendance, training, and fieldwork

Remit

- Proposals welcome from both single disciplines and combinations of disciplines
- BUT fellowship activities must be based at least 50% within the social sciences (see here for ESRC definition: <https://www.ukri.org/who-we-are/esrc/what-is-social-science/social-science-disciplines/#contents-list>)
- Must fall under one of **LISS DTP's 6 Research Areas:** <https://liss-dtp.ac.uk/research-areas/>

Eligibility

Have **completed their PhD at a UK research organisation.**

Have been **awarded a PhD or have passed their viva voce with minor amendments by the application deadline of 16 May 2024** and have been awarded their PhD by the fellowship start date of 1 October 2024.

Have **no more than 12 months full-time** (or pro rata equivalent) of **active postdoctoral experience** by the competition closing date, **16 May 2024.**

The period is calculated between the date of the viva and 16 May 2024 (taking into account any career breaks).

Open to UK & International applicants

Do NOT need to have held ESRC studentship

Mentor

- Must have a mentor based at university where Fellowship to be held
- Experienced in the applicant's field of research & be able to assist the fellow in achieving the goals and activities of the fellowship
- NOT normally the applicant's PhD supervisor
 - Can be in exceptional circumstance, but needs strong justification
- Expected to have contact with mentor ~1-2 hours per week
 - include costs under 'other costs' heading (usually directly allocated)
- Secondary mentor is permitted especially if interdisciplinary area or where fellow will spend time at an overseas institution
 - Can be PhD supervisor
 - Or someone else from where PhD completed if moving institutions
- To find a mentor:
 - See our potential LISS [Mentors List](#)
 - Explore university webpages
 - Ask supervisors/other members of department for recommendations
 - Conferences/twitter/word of mouth...

Stakeholder engagement & Impact

- Fellows should identify potential impacts of their research on policy and practice
- Actively consider how these can be maximised & developed
- Costs for impact-related activities can be included within the proposal under 'other costs'
- When completing the 'Impact plan and user engagement' section of the proposal, refer to [ESRC guidance on developing an impact strategy](#)

How to Apply

- Go to <https://liss-dtp.ac.uk/esrc-pdf/>
 - Full details about the Call.
 - Frequently Asked Questions
 - ESRC Postdoctoral Fellowship Application Form
- All applicants must submit a completed proposal:
ESRC Application Form and all Mandatory Attachments by **16.00 on 16 May 2024**

Email completed application to

lissapplications@kcl.ac.uk

Application Form

Complete which organisation you are applying to: King's, Queen Mary or Imperial

- State which LISS DTP Research Area your application falls under
- Specific ESRC sections (up to 4000 characters each):
 - Objectives
 - Summary
 - Beneficiaries
 - Ethical information
- Summary of resources required for project

Attachments

Form and
attachments
must be
submitted by
**16.00 on 16
May 2024** by
email to:

lissapplications@kcl.ac.uk

- There are **8 mandatory attachments** (min font size 11 in Word/PDF format)
 - Case for support (maximum six sides of A4)
 - Justification of resources (maximum two sides of A4)
 - CV (maximum two sides of A4) – include information about postdoctoral experience
 - List of publications (i.e., bibliography of references cited in the proposal)
 - Head of Department statement from proposed host institution (max one side of A4)
 - Mentor statement and summary CV (maximum two sides of A4)
 - If more than one mentor, statement should be completed by primary mentor but must detail the contribution to be made by all mentors. Brief CVs of not more than one side of A4 should be included for each of the other mentors
 - Referee statement (maximum two sides of A4)
 - Workplan (maximum two sides of A4) – highlight key milestones
- Plus...Data Management Plan: mandatory where new datasets will be generated as part of the fellowship (*maximum three sides of A4*)
- **Other attachments**
 - Letter of support from overseas institution or from project partner if applicable.
- **Important:**
 - NO other additional attachments will be accepted
 - Proposal may be returned or rejected if you include attachments that are not permitted or if any of the mandatory attachments are missing

Costing your proposal

- Postdoc salary (e.g., King's: Grade 6 pt31, QM Grade 4 pt27, Imperial Level B pt29)
- Mentor's time – ~2.5% (counts in 'other costs' – usually in directly allocated section)
- Show salary figures as 100% of full Economic Cost (fEC) and ESRC will meet 80% fEC
- Travel & subsistence + other costs = £10,000
- Subject to ESRC's funding rules: <https://esrc.ukri.org/files/funding/guidance-for-applicants/research-funding-guide/>
- Get salary costings from University's Research Support team/School or Departmental Research Manager asap & submit internal audit forms **(~2 weeks before deadline!)**

Assessment criteria

1. Quality of work programme

- *Is the workload clearly defined and specified objectives achievable and realistic within the time allocated?*
- *Are the proposed activities clearly justified in terms of supporting the fellow's longer term career aspirations?*

2. Value for money

- *Are costs clearly and adequately justified?*

3. Impact and outputs

- *Is the planned output during the fellowship appropriate and attainable?*
- *Are there adequate plans to share the results and engage with academic and non-academic audiences?*

4. Consideration of ethical issues

- *Does the proposal show sufficient awareness of any ethical issues that may be raised by the proposed fellowship, and how might these be addressed?*

What next?

Timeline

- Initial decisions re shortlisting by mid-June
- Shortlisted applicants interviewed early July
- Decisions confirmed to applicants by end of July 2024.
- Proposals submitted in Je-S between July & August 2024.
- Fellowships commence – on **1 October 2024**.
 - Delayed start only in exceptional circumstances (e.g. visa not received in time)
 - PhD must have been awarded by 1 October 2024; if not then award will lapse (cannot be deferred)

During the fellowship

- Regular meetings with mentor
- Access to range of research & transferrable skills training
- Support with developing grant applications
- Quarterly report & 6-month check-in with PDF committee
- Regular lunches with other LISS fellows & opportunities to meet with other DTP fellows
- Connected with postdoctoral networks

Further information

- LISS DTP website:
<https://liss-dtp.ac.uk/esrc-pdf/>
- Scheme queries email:
liss-dtp@kcl.ac.uk
- Salary costings:
Research Support Team/School or
Department Research Manager at the
University where you are applying to
hold the fellowship

