London Interdisciplinary Social Science Doctoral Training Partnership

CASE Studentship Project Proposal - Assessment Criteria – 2027 Entry

LISS DTP will evaluate CASE Studentship Project Proposals against the four criteria and percentage weightings set out below. All applications will be assessed using the same criteria.

1. **Quality of the project**

Is the topic relevant and likely to produce high-quality social science research? Are the research questions well formulated? Does the proposal demonstrate a strong theoretical and/or conceptual foundation in the relevant social-science literature? Is there a feasible and rigorous research design? Is there a coherent relationship between the research questions, data, methods, and proposed analysis? Is the data strategy credible, including access to, or generation of, the required data? Does the proposed work offer genuine scope for doctoral research? Is interdisciplinarity meaningfully integrated into the research design? How strongly does the project align with LISS DTP's commitment to high-quality, interdisciplinary, data-driven social-science research?

(40% weighting)

2. **Quality and added value of the collaboration proposed**

Is the partner meaningfully integrated into the design and delivery of the studentship? What is the added value of the non-academic collaboration? What is the nature of the commitment from the partner organisation? What additional developmental or training opportunities will arise through the collaboration between the student and the partner organisation? How will these training opportunities be structured? Will the partner organisation offer distinctive forms of experience in areas related to analysis, dissemination, research management, networking, and knowledge transfer?

(30% weighting)

3. **Potential for societal and/or economic impact**

What is the potential societal and/or economic impact of the project? Is the partner's role in enabling, accelerating, or realising impact clearly explained? Are there credible pathways through which the findings could influence policy, professional practice, organisational decisions, services, public understanding, or other outcomes beyond academia?

(15% weighting)

4. **Suitability of the project team, research environment, and recruitment strategy**

Are the contributions of the academic supervisors and non-academic partners clear and complementary? Does the supervisory team collectively have the appropriate doctoral supervisory experience, capacity, and expertise required by the project? Will the project offer the student a distinctive and supportive doctoral training environment across the academic institution, partner organisation, and LISS DTP? Is the recruitment process well planned? Is there a credible strategy to advertise the studentship widely and attract a diverse applicant pool, including candidates from groups and routes currently under-represented in doctoral research?

(15% weighting)