

ESRC PhD studentships in Environment, Energy and Resilience

The deadline for applications using the online form is **5pm, Friday 17th February 2012**

What is it?

The Environment, Energy and Resilience pathway of the SWDTC offers ESRC 1+3 and +3 postgraduate research training that explores the interface between security, energy and environment by engaging the latest critical thinking on risk management, critical infrastructure, public regulation, policy studies and the environmental sciences. This pathway directly addresses the ESRC's 2009 – 2014 strategic challenges around *Environment, Energy and Resilience*, and *Security, Conflict and Justice*, and fits with ESRC's involvement in the RCUK *Living with Environmental Change* and *Energy Research* programmes.

The pathway draws on expertise from the following Schools, Institutes and Research Centres: Bristol's School of Geographical Sciences, School of Law, School for Policy Studies, the Global Insecurities Centre (Politics), the Bristol Environmental Risk Research Centre (BRISK), and the Cabot Institute which draws together environmental research from across the university; Exeter's School of Geography, School of Law, Centre for Energy and the Environment, and the ESRC/EPSRC funded Energy Security in a Multipolar World Research cluster; Bath's Institute for Sustainable Energy and the Environment (I-SEE), Centre for Research in Education and the Environment, the Centre for Action Research in Professional Practice, and the Centre for the Analysis of Social Policy. All three institutions have made significant institutional investment in the areas of security, energy and environment. Together, they offer world-class research and expertise, and significant links to policy and business, and provide a bridge between the natural, environmental and social sciences which this interdisciplinary pathway seeks to build upon.

Who is it for?

The Environment, Energy and Resilience pathway will train social science researchers who understand the impacts of living with environmental change, the uncertainties of environmental change for energy and food security and the diverse responses needed to foster behaviours, practices and policies that promote sustainability and resilience. Students from a wide range of disciplinary backgrounds will be accepted into this pathway. They will be required to demonstrate explicitly how their research will be interdisciplinary.

What are the prerequisites?

Environment, Energy and Resilience will offer both 1+3 and +3 studentships. Students applying for the 1+3 programme will have a high honours undergraduate degree or equivalent from a relevant discipline. Students applying for the +3 programme must have completed a MRes or MSc programme with appropriate research training or equivalent by September 2012.

What will I study in the first year?

Students applying for a 1+3 programme will take research training that follows the SWDTC's standard interdisciplinary format; ie. core research training modules will be selected from the consortia's offerings in research design, methods, and analysis; there will be one pathway specific module; and optional modules will be selected from a specified list. There is also a research dissertation. The pathway specific module is a co-convened core course entitled *Contemporary Debates in Environment, Energy and Resilience*. This core module introduces students to key concepts and debates in this field including global (in)security and the environment, environmental risk management and impact assessment, critical infrastructure design, and public policy towards and regulation of energy and transport. We shall also draw on expertise in physical geography, earth sciences, energy studies and beyond through participation in the university initiatives identified above.

Who will supervise my thesis?

All students in on Environment, Energy and Resilience will have two supervisors from different disciplinary perspectives and different institutions. These supervisors will convene joint meetings on a regular basis, and will attend the annual one-day workshop for all pathway students.

When would it start?

Students will be expected to start on 1st October 2012

How many studentships are there in this pathway?

Up to two studentships per year will be awarded on a competitive basis.

How do I apply?

- Work out your substantive research topic
 - Contact the pathway lead at your preferred host University with a brief description of your proposed topic (no more than 1 page).
 - Research and contact prospective supervisors in your area of interest from Bristol, Bath and Exeter. The pathway lead may be able to put you in touch with potential supervisor(s) for your topic but you should also do your own research on this
 - Write a 1000-word proposal, outlining your research questions, sources and approach.
 - Submit your proposal on your host University using their online application form.
- Notes on completing the application form for the EER pathway:
- In Section 1 enter 'Environment, Energy and Resilience' next to programme
 - In Section 7 tick UK Research Council
 - Your 1000-word proposal should be included in Section 10
 - All applicants are required to provide two references.

Timeline

The deadline for applications via the online form is **5pm (BST), Friday 17th February 2012**

Interviews will be held for shortlisted candidates on **Wednesday 29th February 2012**

Applicants will be notified whether their application has been successful by the end of March 2012

Successful applicants will be expected to start in October 2011

What does an ESRC studentship cover?

An ESRC studentship covers University tuition fees plus an annual maintenance stipend of around £13,500 to contribute towards living expenses. Each studentship also includes a Research Support Grant of £750 per year to encourage students to attend conferences and additional courses external to the University.