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| **SGSSS Student-led Open Competition** Research Proposal Application Form Please complete this research proposal application form and submit it to**pgrs-studentships@abdn.ac.uk**by **12 noon on Monday, 6th November 2023**.**Please note, this application form must be completed in conjunction with the *Student-led Open Competition Applicant Guidance for Students*, located** [**here**](https://social.sgsss.ac.uk/files/documents/studentship-competitions/open-competition/open-competition-guidance_-students.pdf)**Applicant details** |
| **Applicant name:** |  |
| **Applicant email:** |  |
| **Applicant Telephone:** |  |

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| **Please select the disciplinary unit of assessment of your primary supervisor (your supervisor will be able to provide you with this information).**  |
| Choose an item. |

**Eligibility**

Applicants must meet the [University of Aberdeen PhD entry requirements](https://www.abdn.ac.uk/study/postgraduate-research/how-to-apply-1639.php) and all ESRC eligibility requirements. (Please refer to Sections 1.2 and 1.3 of the [SGSSS Guidance for Students](https://social.sgsss.ac.uk/files/documents/studentship-competitions/open-competition/open-competition-guidance_-students.pdf))

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| **Start date** | **End date** | **Country of main residency** | **Type of activity** **Please choose from the following:*** **Employment**
* **University/College**
* **Other (please specify)**
 | **Employment position or educational programme** | **Name of Employer or University/College** |
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| **Award type**Please select one from each row below: |
| Masters + PhD funding [ ]  Phd Funding [ ]   |
| Home Student [ ]  International Student [ ]  |
| Full-time [ ]  Part-time [ ]  |

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| **Are you currently enrolled in the first year of a PhD (or equivalent if part-time)?**Please note, if you are currently in the second year of your PhD, or beyond or you have an existing scholarship with fees and a stipend at the same value as an ESRC scholarship then you are not eligible to apply for ESRC funding. |
| Yes [ ]  No [ ]  |

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| If yes, depending on the desired award length you have selected above, please outline the current progress of your PhD, providing an estimate of your progress by September 2024, including an explanation of why your preference for either a +2.5 award (2.5 years of funding) or a +3.5 award (3.5 years of funding). Your answer should include progress with writing introductory chapters, refining your research proposal and in establishing research networks important to your study. You should also give an indication of the nature of your current funding and the amount of time that you have been able to dedicate to your PhD. Please note, the answer you provide below will help SGSSS determine your length of your award, if successful. (350 words max) |
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| **Provisional title of research project:**Enter the title of your research project here (it is expected that titles might be tentative at this stage). |
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| **Supervisory team:**Enter the name of your planned supervisor(s) here. (Please note that each applicant should have at leave two academic supervisors. The primary supervisor must be an social scientist in one of the following eligible disciplines: Public Health, Health Services and Primary Care; Psychology; Business and Management Studies; Law; Politics and International Relations; Anthropology and Developmental Studies)  |
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| **Lay summary:**Please provide a lay summary that explains your project and its significance to society/academic discipline to a non-academic audience. (250 words max) |
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**Preparedness to undertake and complete a PhD and to flourish as a result of PhD funding**

**Successfully undertaking a PhD requires not only academic ability but also resourcefulness, commitment and resilience. It involves a range of skills including the ability to communicate complex ideas (about why a research question is of societal and academic importance, why it can be addressed using particular methods and why your findings matter), planning and organisation (including within changing circumstances), working with others (inside and outside of universities) to increase the chances of your research making a difference. You may find it useful to refer to the** [**Researcher Development Framework**](https://www.vitae.ac.uk/vitae-publications/rdf-related/researcher-development-framework-rdf-vitae.pdf/view) **in thinking about this question.**

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| Drawing on your own background (including your life experiences, journey to/through university, work experiences or volunteering) please provide a summary of why you are ready to undertake a PhD now and how you will flourish as a result of PhD funding. You might include, for example, personal challenges that you have overcome or achievements that you are proud of in your work, study or life experiences and how these map onto the skills required to flourish in a PhD programme. Challenges could include, but are not limited to, protected characteristics, socio-economic status and of being first-in-a-generation to university or care-experienced. (400 words max) |
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**Contributing to a positive and diverse PhD community**

**SGSSS aims to attract and support a positive and diverse PhD community where everyone can reach their full potential; Research and Development (R&D) is a supportive and fulfilling sector to work in; and is seen as a shared endeavour across society rather than only the concern of professional researchers. You may find it useful to refer to the UK Government’s** [**R&D People and Culture Strategy**](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1004685/r_d-people-culture-strategy.pdf) **when thinking about this question.**

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| Reflecting on your own background and/or proposed approach to PhD study and the opportunities which it will present, how will you support diversity and inclusion in the PhD community? (250 words max) |
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**Guidance on Research Proposal**

The research proposal must be a detailed description of the intended research topic. It will form the basis for assessing the application. The proposal should be written in a clear and concise manner and applicants should be aware that applications will be reviewed by interdisciplinary panels so please make sure that you fully explain disciplinary specific concepts or techniques. **Your research project must be feasible within the funded PhD period– from 2024 onwards all ESRC funded students must submit their thesis by the end of the funded period (previously students were given 12 additional unfunded months to submit the final draft). Feasibility will be considered carefully by reviewers.** The main body of the research proposal (excluding the bibliography) must not exceed 1,500 words.

**Please also note that reviewers of this proposal will include those outwith your discipline.**

The Research Proposal **MUST** include the following sections:

* Overview – a general introduction that succinctly sets out exactly what the project seeks to explore. This should also include the research question(s) to be addressed and the overall aim of the project.
* Context – situate the research within the relevant literature/s. This should include a brief summary of research already taken in the field, addressing key works and scholars. Specific attention should be paid to problems in the existing literature and ways in which your proposed research challenges/addresses these problems. You should also give an account of the theoretical issues relevant to your research, and whether you intend to test existing theories or develop new ones.
* Methodology – provide a detailed account of the methodology and/or methods that will be used. Specific attention should be paid, where relevant, to any innovative aspects of the proposed methodology.
* An indication of ethical issues associated with this proposal (including those that may impact on formal ethics committee approval **and** those requiring ongoing consideration in the field/during analysis) and proposed actions to mitigate these.

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| **Enter your proposal here:**This is limited to 1,500 words. You may also include/embed diagrams (words within diagrams will count towards the word limit).  |
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| Enter bibliography here. References within the research proposal should be Harvard Style and the bibliography should reflect this. Please only include references referred to in the research proposal. |
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1. **Indicative Bibliography**
2. **Risk Assessment**

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| Please set out the aspects of your proposal that are at particular risk of non-implementation and indicate the approaches that you will take to manage such risks to ensure that your timely submission is not compromised. (250 words max) |
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1. **Provisional Timetable**

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| This section must only include an indicative timeline for your research. Any substantive discussion of your research in this box will not be considered by reviewers. Please note that your timetable should take account of the expectation that your PhD will be submitted at the end of your funded period. |
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**Student Declaration**

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| I confirm that the information provided in this form is complete and correct and that any untrue or misleading information will give the University of Aberdeen the right to reject my application. |
| **Name:** |  |
| **Applicant ID number:** |  |
| **Signature:**Please attach an electronic signature |  |
| **Date:** | Click or tap to enter a date. |

**Supervisors Statement of Support**

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| I confirm that I have discussed this proposal with the applicant and I am supportive of the application.  |
| **Name:** |  |
| **Signature:**Please attach an electronic signature |  |
| **Date:** | Click or tap to enter a date. |