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**SEDarc DTP APPLICATION FORM 2026**

Please complete this application in full by the deadline set by your chosen institution and, if shortlisted, by 16:00 GMT on 30 January 2026. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered. Sections 1 to 7 should be completed by the applicant and section 8 by the supervisory team. Please refer to the guidance notes when completing this form.

**Applications need to be completed in MS Word.** Do not alter or reformat the form. If you would like to include images, submit them in a separate document with appropriate reference notes.

Completed applications should be saved and submitted as a Word document (NOT Pdf) using the following naming convention: **Full\_Name\_Institution** for the purposes of onward processing.

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| **SECTION 1** |

* 1. **PERSONAL DETAILS**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name: |  |
| Email: |  |
| Date of Birth: |  |
| Resident Town/City: |  |
| Resident Country: |  |

**1.2 RESIDENTIAL ELIGIBILITY**

Please see the SEDarc guidance notes for how to assess your residential status. The ESRC/UKRI rules are also available [here](https://www.ukri.org/what-we-do/developing-people-and-skills/esrc/funding-for-postgraduate-training-and-development/eligibility-for-studentship-funding/). I have checked my eligibility and declare that I have:

**1.3 SEDarc INSTITUTION, DEPARTMENT AND SUPERVISORS**

Please select the SEDarc institution that you intend to study at:

Please state the name of the Department you will be based in:

NB Your Primary Supervisor must come from the Department in which you are based. To be eligible to supervise a SEDarc ESRC-funded student, either the primary or the secondary supervisor must be experienced. That is, one of the supervisors must have supervised at least two students to completion.

**Primary Supervisor Details:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name |  |
| University |  |
| Department |  |
| Email Address |  |

**Secondary Supervisor Details:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name |  |
| University |  |
| Department |  |
| Email Address |  |
| **SECTION 2** | | |

**2.1 STUDENTSHIP STRUCTURE**

Please select the basis (mode of study) that you would like to hold your award:

Please select the SEDarc Theme into which your proposal falls:

Please select the Primary SEDarc Discipline into which your proposal falls:

Please select the Secondary SEDarc Discipline into which your proposal falls:

Please select the studentship you are applying for:

**NB Students who have already started their PhD are not eligible for a SEDarc studentship.**

If you have selected the 1+ 3.5 studentship, please tick the box below to indicate the SEDarc compliant Masters below that you wish to take. You are required to complete your Masters and PhD at the same University.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **University of Kent** | | |
|  | International Conflict Resolution and Negotiation | Politics & International Relations |
|  | Methods of Social Research | Social Policy & Sociology |
|  | MSc Business Analytics | Business & Management |
|  | MSc Psychology (open subdiscipline option) | Psychology |
|  | MSc Ethnobotany | Anthropology |
|  | MSc in Conservation Science and Management | Geography |
|  | MSc Marketing | Business & Management |
| **University of Reading** | | |
|  | MA Education | Education |
|  | MSc by Research | Henley Business School |
|  | MSc in Research Methods in Psychology | Psychology |
|  | MSc Language Studies | Psychology |
| **Royal Holloway University** | | |
|  | MSc Clinical Psychology | Psychology |
|  | MSc Economics | Economics |
|  | MSc Elections, Campaigns, and Democracy | Politics & International Relations |
|  | MSc Global Futures | Geography |
|  | MSc Media, Power, & Public Affairs | Politics & International Relations |
| **University of Surrey** | | |
|  | MRes Economics | Economics |
| **University of Sussex** | | |
|  | MRes Research Methods in Psychology | Psychology |
|  | MSc Development Economics | Economics |
|  | MSc Social Research Methods | Interdisciplinary |

**2.2 DECLARATION REGARDING STUDENTSHIP STRUCTURE**

I,       hereby confirm that I have consulted my primary supervisor       in drafting this application and have as such determined the studentship structure that I have applied for. I also confirm that I am not already enrolled on a PhD program. I understand that I may be awarded a different structured studentship to the one I have applied for, as this is dependent on the outcome of SEDarc’s review of my prior disciplinary and research methods training and experience. SEDarc will notify me as soon as possible if this is the case.

Please tick the box to confirm that you have read and accept the above statement

**2.3 CONCURRENT FUNDING APPLICATIONS**

Please indicate if you are making a separate application for any other funded studentship at any other university, or through any other Research Council. Please select all those that apply:

Arts Humanities Research Council

Biotechnology and Biological Research Council

Economic and Social Research Council

Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council

Medical Research Council

Natural Environment Research Council

Science and Technology Facilities Council

Other

Please note that you cannot receive a Government Funded Postgraduate Doctoral Loan simultaneously with UKRI funding. Please also see paragraph [TGC 5.2.3 in the UKRI Guidance](https://www.ukri.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/UKRI-28032025-UKRI_Training-Grant-Terms-And-Conditions-April-2025.pdf) in relation to UKRI rules on funding from other sources for the same research. Please tick the box to confirm that you have read and understood this information

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| **SECTION 3** |

Please refer to the guidance notes when completing this section

**3.1 RESEARCH PROPOSAL**

|  |
| --- |
| Your research proposal title (maximum of 150 characters, including punctuation and spaces between words) |
|  |
| Your research proposal abstract: this may be published on the SEDarc website and should be written in an accessible way appropriate for a general audience (maximum of 250 words) |
|  |
| Your detailed research proposal: describe your proposal in a way that could be read by a general academic audience (maximum of 2,000 words). Your proposal should follow this structure and use these headings: |
| 1. Research background:      1. Fit to the challenge led theme/s:           1. Research questions and aims:      1. Research plan (including methodology):      1. Potential impact (e.g. in relation to challenge led theme/s):      1. Proposed timeline: |
| References: please only include the texts to which you have referred in your research proposal (not included in proposal word count) |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
| **3.2 STEER OPPORTUNITY**  Please complete the following section/s should the project align with one or more of the strategic steers. Refer to the guidance notes when completing this section.  **Please select all the options that apply to your project:**  My project develops or uses **advanced quantitative methods.**  My project uses **very large datasets or big data methods.**  My project **involves interdisciplinary collaboration** with researchers outside of the social sciences.  My project includes **none of the above**.  If yes to any of the above, please provide a justification below:  (If interdisciplinary collaboration, please also name the research council/s the research involves) |

**3.3 ETHICAL APPROVAL FOR YOUR RESEARCH PROPOSAL**

The question of ethical approval must be properly addressed throughout the duration of your research project and demonstrated as necessary. Both SEDarc and the ESRC expects that all those funded through them will conform to the [ESRC’s Framework for Research Ethics.](https://www.ukri.org/councils/esrc/guidance-for-applicants/research-ethics-guidance/framework-for-research-ethics/" \l "contents-list)

Please tick if you agree to the following statement: I confirm that I have considered the ethical considerations my research proposal gives rise to and will obtain ethical clearance from my chosen university as soon as possible after taking up my award and before data collection begins

|  |
| --- |
| Please state the ethical considerations raised by your research proposal and how you plan to address them (maximum of 250 words) |
|  |

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| **SECTION 4** |

Please note that this section is not assessed. Refer to the guidance notes as it will set out the rules for each of the opportunities listed below. Each heading is a separate opportunity and should be treated as such.

**4.1 PLACEMENT**

SEDarc students are expected to undertake a 3-month placement (in a block or spread across the PhD) that should not be directly related to your overall research project. The placement forms part of the 3.5-year PhD funding award and 0.25 years of funding will be withheld if it is not undertaken. Please tick this box to indicate that you understand the placement expectation

|  |
| --- |
| Do you have plans already for your placement? If so, please describe the organisation, the nature of work that will be undertaken, and the planned timing of the placement (for example, will the placement be taken as a 3-month block?). If you do not already have plans for your placement, please describe your aims for the placement and some initial thoughts as to the nature of organisation that you would be interested in working with (maximum of 250 words). |
|  |
| Estimated travel cost associated with the placement and breakdown (in GBP). Please note that funding is a contribution to costs rather than covering all expenses. Funding will be determined by SEDarc and will typically not exceed £1,000 per student. See guidance for further information. |
|  |

**4.2 OVERSEAS FIELDWORK**

Do you plan to undertake overseas fieldwork as part of your research project? Yes  No

If yes, complete the below and use the studentship guidance notes page 9 for support in completing this section. Funding will be determined by SEDarc and is capped at £4,000 for those applying for up to 6 months and £6,000 for those applying for up to 9 months; however, this maximum amount will be awarded only in exceptional circumstances. Due to the nature of the SEDarc programme, overseas fieldwork visits will normally last less than 6 months. However, in exceptional circumstances, up to 9 months may be permitted for those that meet the conditions set out in the policy.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Country in which you intend to conduct fieldwork |  |
| Anticipated length of visit in months |  |
| Estimated total cost of fieldwork (in GBP) |  |
| Please itemise the main costs you think you will incur in conducting your fieldwork, in GBP |  |

**4.3 LANGUAGE TRAINING**

Will you require language training? Yes  No

Please base this on the language training provisions contained in Annex 1 of the [ESRC Postgraduate Funding Guide](https://www.ukri.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/ESRC-200825-ESRC-Postgraduate-Funding-Guide-August-2025.pdf) guidance on extensions for language learning**.**

If yes, complete the below and use the studentship guidance notes page 10 for support in completing this section.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Please state the language you need to learn |  |
| Anticipated length of language course in months |  |
| Anticipated cost of language training, if any |  |
| Do you anticipate requiring an extension to your PhD in order to learn this language? *Note that SEDarc cannot offer additional stipend to support extensions.* | Yes  No |
| How long an extension do you envisage needing (in months)? |  |

**4.4 RESEARCH TRAINING SUPPORT GRANT**

While there are no individual allowances, most students are granted no more than £3,000 over the lifetime of their award, unless there are exceptional circumstances. This is a guide and should not be viewed as a target.

|  |
| --- |
| If your project will cost more than £3000, excluding overseas fieldwork costs, please indicate what these costs are, and how you plan to fund these (maximum 250 words) |
|  |

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| **SECTION 5** |

**5.1 COLLABORATIVE STUDENTSHIP INFORMATION**

Does your research project, as outlined in this application, include supervision or other substantive contribution by a non-academic partner? Please note that offering a placement is not sufficient to evidence a substantive contribution. Yes  No

If yes, please complete the below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Collaborative Partner 1 | |
| Name of organisation |  |
| Name of contact at this organisation |  |
| Contact’s position in the organisation |  |
| Contact's email address |  |
| Are you able to provide a letter of support from this organisation? | Yes  No |

Please complete if you have another collaborative partner to add:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Collaborative Partner 2 | |
| Name of organisation |  |
| Name of contact at this organisation |  |
| Contact’s position in the organisation |  |
| Contact's email address |  |
| Are you able to provide a letter of support from this organisation? | Yes  No |

|  |
| --- |
| Please state the nature and value of the contribution your collaborative partner(s) will be providing to your research project via the SEDarc DTP. Partners do not need to make a financial contribution, and it can be a direct financial contribution or an “in kind” contribution, e.g. supervision, access to its data etc. |
|  |
| Total contribution in cash to the DTP (in GBP) if making a direct financial contribution |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
| **SECTION 6** |

**6.1 DETAILS OF YOUR EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

Please outline below any previous higher education and/or training you have had that is relevant to your application and your research project.

**Undergraduate**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Qualification & Title of Award | Name of University/Institution attended | Country University/  Institution located | Month & Year Programme Commenced | Month & Year  Programme completed/will be completed | Degree Classification |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Masters**

Do you hold a SEDarc-compliant Masters degree? Yes  No

Are you currently studying for a Masters degree? Yes  No

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Qualification & Title of Award | Name of University/Institution attended | Country University/  Institution located | Month & Year Programme Commenced | Month & Year  Programme completed/will be completed | Degree Classification |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Other**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Qualification & Title of Award | Name of University/Institution attended | Country University/  Institution located | Month & Year Programme Commenced | Month & Year  Programme completed/will be completed | Classification (if applicable) |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
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**Work Experience**

Do you have any work experience which is relevant to your research project?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Name of employer/organisation | Position held | Start and end dates | Any on-the-job training/skills acquired |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

**6.2 YOUR PAST RESEARCH METHODS TRAINING**

Do you have any professional experience which has provided you with any research methods skills?

Yes  No

|  |
| --- |
| Please give details of your professional experience. You may refer to modules taken during your UG or Masters degree/s: |
|  |

Based on the information provided above, I confirm the above details provided

**6.3 RESEARCH METHODS/TRAINING SKILLS**

Please note any research design and core research methods training that your Undergraduate or Masters programme has, or will, cover, or which you feel your professional experience has covered. It is essential that you consult your supervisor when completing this section. Your application will not be assessed on the below recorded statements, please see guidance notes for further information on this section.

Please mark your experience levels in the below tables for each category from 1 to 4.

1 - I have very little or no knowledge / experience in this area

2 - I have some knowledge / experience, but I need to develop much more in this area

3 - I have quite a lot of knowledge / experience in this area, but more development would be useful

4 - I have a lot of knowledge / experience in this area, and really do not need further training

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Research Practice and Skills** | **Response** | | | |
| **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** |
| Research methods and techniques which are relevant to my research project |  |  |  |  |
| A variety of different research methods and techniques |  |  |  |  |
| How to formulate research questions which are amenable to empirical investigation |  |  |  |  |
| The significance of alternative epistemological positions |  |  |  |  |
| How to avoid plagiarism |  |  |  |  |
| Data generation techniques/use of secondary data from existing sources |  |  |  |  |
| Open Science principles and practices to enhance reproducibility |  |  |  |  |

Please provide details of specific courses you took or training events you attended in previous study years and/or outside your studies that demonstrate your above experience in **Research Practice and Skills**:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Quantitative Analysis** | **Response** | | | |
| **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** |
| Inferential statistical tests for parametric and nonparametric data |  |  |  |  |
| AI and machine learning as research tools |  |  |  |  |
| Correlation, ANOVA and basic regression analysis |  |  |  |  |
| Advanced statistical and econometrics techniques (eg: Non-linear regressions, GMM, Maximum likelihood, casual inference) |  |  |  |  |
| Programming skills (R, Python, Stat or similar) |  |  |  |  |
| Multilevel modelling |  |  |  |  |
| Longitudinal or panel data analysis |  |  |  |  |
| Experimental data |  |  |  |  |
| Data reduction and grouping methods (factor and cluster analysis, multidimensional scaling, etc) |  |  |  |  |
| Agent based modelling techniques |  |  |  |  |
| R as a software for data analysis for research |  |  |  |  |

Please provide details of specific courses you took or training events you attended in previous study years and/or outside your studies that demonstrate your above experience in **Quantitative Analysis**:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Qualitative Analysis** | **Response** | | | |
| **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A range of analytic methods to explore and interpret textual, aural, and visual data, both in offline and online formats |  |  |  |  |
| Participatory, multi modal and arts-based research approaches |  |  |  |  |
| Historical, comparative and archival methods |  |  |  |  |
| Discourse, content, or narrative analysis |  |  |  |  |
| Data analysis software for research purposes such as NVivo, MAXQDA, or Atlas-ti |  |  |  |  |

Please provide details of specific courses you took or training events you attended in previous study years and/or outside your studies that demonstrate your above experience in **Qualitative Analysis**:

|  |
| --- |
| **SECTION 7** |

**7.1 PERSONAL STATEMENT**

|  |
| --- |
| **Please address the following issues in a maximum of 500 words:**  **Your reasons for applying**: i) why you wish to study with SEDarc, and how you plan to take advantage of the opportunities SEDarc offers its students; and, ii) your preparedness for the demands of postgraduate life by discussing your passion for your topic, as well as your existing life, academic, and professional knowledge and experience.  **Your career goals**: in particular, your long-term career ambitions, and how a SEDarc studentship relates to these.  **Your wider skill set**: in particular, highlight relevant skills and knowledge that will enable you to make an impact from SEDarc’s advanced social science training. Let us know about any awards you've won, placements you've undertaken, or conferences you've attended or other experiences you’ve had which make you an excellent candidate for a SEDarc studentship. |
|  |

**DECLARATION**

Please tick the box below to confirm the following: that the information you have provided is complete and accurate to the best of your knowledge on this date; that it is your responsibility to ensure that your application is submitted before the deadline, and that any missing information may render your application incomplete and ineligible; and, that you authorise the SEDarc ESRC DTP to disclose to the ESRC any information that is relevant to your application and to share any information contained in your application with any of the SEDarc member institutions.

I confirm I have read the full terms and conditions of the ESRC's Postgraduate Funding Guide (available [here](https://www.ukri.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/ESRC-200825-ESRC-Postgraduate-Funding-Guide-August-2025.pdf)) and will accept these terms and conditions, should I be awarded a SEDarc studentship.

Please tick the box to confirm the above statement is correct

|  |
| --- |
| **SECTION 8**  **Supervisors to complete** |

**8.1 SUPERVISORY TEAM and EXPERTISE**

**Please provide your details below and indicate if you are Primary Supervisor or Secondary Supervisor.**

To be eligible to supervise a SEDarc ESRC-funded student, either the primary or the secondary supervisor must be experienced. That is, one of thesupervisors must have supervised at least two students to completion. The primary supervisor must be based in the same department as the applicant.

**Primary Supervisor:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Name |  | | | |
| University |  | | | |
| Department |  | | | |
| Email Address |  | | | |
| Brief description of research interests |  | | | |
| Doctoral Supervision experience *(only indicate number of students for each category)* | **Primary Supervisor:** | | **Secondary Supervisor:** | |
| Completed | Current | Completed | Current |
|  |  |  |  |
| Have you completed the mandatory training in the last three years? (Either through your institution or DTP) | EDI Training Yes  No  Effective Supervision Yes  No  Research Ethics and Integrity Yes  No  DTP-specific Processes (through DTP) Yes  No | | | |
| If you have not completed the above three training requirements, please tick the box below to confirm that you will complete them before September 2026. Supervisors who have not completed the training by September 2026 will not be allowed to supervise SEDarc students.  I confirm that I will complete the training required before September 2026 | | | | |

**Secondary Supervisor:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Name |  | | | |
| University |  | | | |
| Department |  | | | |
| Email Address |  | | | |
| Brief description of research interests |  | | | |
| Doctoral Supervision experience *(only indicate number of students for each category)* | **Primary Supervisor:** | | **Secondary Supervisor:** | |
| Completed | Current | Completed | Current |
|  |  |  |  |

**8.2 SUPERVISOR STATEMENT**

|  |
| --- |
| Please comment (in a maximum of 250 words) on how you, as the supervisory team, will work together to support the applicant. In doing so, please reflect on existing or past supervision of other doctoral researchers as a supervisory team; and, any other complementarities you consider to be your strengths as a supervisory team. Please also highlight any contextual factors gleaned from the references or interview that speak to the applicant’s wider potential for PhD study beyond the typical academic indicators. |
|  |
| Please comment (in a maximum of 250 words) on the quality and feasibility of your applicant’s research proposal. In doing so, please reflect on the proposal’s broader significance in the discipline(s); the positioning of the proposal in the relevant literature; the research plan; and the potential impact on professional practice. If your applicant's research project plans (a) to use advanced quantitative methods, (b) to use very large datasets and/or big data methods, or (c) involves interdisciplinary collaboration with researchers outside of the social sciences then please highlight and explain this, as the project may qualify for funding under an ESRC strategic steer. |
|  |
| Please justify (in a maximum of 100 words) that the applicant has applied for the correct studentship structure (1+3.25 or +3.25) |
|  |

End of form.