



**APPLYING TO THE ECONOMIC & SOCIAL RESEARCH COUNCIL (ESRC) FOR
RESEARCH STUDENTSHIPS (2008/9)
Guidance for Students – Version 1 (January 2008)**

There are two ESRC open competition schemes for which UK and EU students can apply to study in recognized areas at Keele. The recognized areas are Psychology, Sociology, Social Work, and Social Policy (including Social Gerontology). These schemes are highly competitive. Successful UK applicants would receive a stipend and fees, while EU students only receive their fees.

- **1+3:** to enable students to pursue an MSc or MRes qualification leading to a 3 year PhD. **This scheme will be of interest to level 3 undergraduate students approaching their finals who are considering embarking on research.**
- **+3:** assumes students have been trained in research; up to 3 years of funding to pursue a programme of doctoral research. **This scheme will be of interest to students who are completing MSc or MRes programmes, and also students who are already enrolled on PhD programmes (year 1, year 2), who are making excellent progress, but who have yet to secure funding council support. Must have completed an ESRC-accredited Masters course.**

Details of this year's application process are not yet available from ESRC, but information on previous years and some general guidance can be found at <http://www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk/ESRCInfoCentre/opportunities/postgraduate/fundingopportunities/>

The timetable for both schemes will be the same, and both require a good research proposal and excellent references as well as a co-operative supervisory team.

Date	Activity
January 2008	Advertisements to be placed flagging possible studentship opportunities, including ESRC
Jan-Feb	Identify suitable ESRC open competition applicants and start working on applications/proposals
Early February	At Keele, RI/cross-Faculty briefing session for students interested in PhDs to explain application process (focusing on ESRC)
29 February 2008	Deadline for application to Keele for ESRC candidates and receipt of first draft of ESRC form
20 March 2008	Final date for feedback on which applications will be put forward for the open competition
11 April 2008	Final deadline for submission of ESRC competition applications forms including references, signatures, and Section 3

Step 1 – DISCIPLINE BRIEFINGS ON POSTGRADUATE STUDY (late January to early February 2008)

You should make your names known to the Research Institute Postgraduate Director, Dr Alexandra Lamont (a.m.lamont@psy.keele.ac.uk), as soon as possible, as well as contacting a prospective supervisor to discuss the feasibility of preparing an application. A full list of supervisors and research interests can be found here:

<http://www.keele.ac.uk/research/lcs/membership/index.htm>

Step 2 – WORKSHOP: MAKING AN ESRC APPLICATION (early February, date TBA)

During this workshop you will receive guidance on how to write a good ESRC application and the steps involved in preparing the application form, with support from your prospective supervisor(s) and your RI PGR Director.

Step 3 – Prepare your Keele University Application (by 29 February 2008)

You will need to complete two forms:

- a) Keele University Application Form together with two academic references.
(Remember it will take your referees time to complete this and they have to see your draft research proposal in order to be able to comment on it, so do not delay at this stage).
- b) First draft of ESRC application form with research proposal in the appropriate format. The ESRC form and research proposal should be completed with support and advice from your prospective supervisor. It is normal to go through several drafts.

Step 4 – Receive feedback on the Research Proposal (by 20 March 2008)

Key staff within the Faculty will meet and review each research proposal and provide feedback, in addition to the advice given by RI PGR directors. Any recommended changes will need to be made. Once this work is complete you can then finalise the ESRC application form.

Step 5- Internal Submission Deadline of completed ESRC application forms (11 April 2008)

You will need to finalise the ESRC application form electronically, following the instructions very carefully. You must also contact your referees and ensure they have provided their references directly to us by this date. The RI will collate the forms, oversee the completion of the references and section about training and supervision, and submit the forms to the Graduate School for forwarding to the ESRC by the 1st May deadline.

UNIVERSITY CONTACTS

For advice on making an **application to the University for doctoral study**:

Jill Clarke (Postgraduate Assistant), Graduate School
Email: j.r.clarke@keele.ac.uk or Tel: 01782 584368

For advice on making an **application to the University for Masters level study**:

Lesley Orrell (Postgraduate Assistant), Postgraduate Office
Email: f.l.orrell@keele.ac.uk or Tel: 01782 584472