***ESRC Wales DTP Collaborative studentships***

Cardiff University, School of Journalism, Media and Culture, supported by the ESRC Doctoral Training Partnership for Wales (Wales DTP), invites applications for funded PhD study. These particular studentships, known as ‘collaborative studentships’, involve liaison with a non-academic organisation, often at many key stages of the research programme. They will commence in October 2019. The following collaborative studentships are available for the “Journalism and Democracy” pathway

* 1) Journalism, Data Literacy and Democratic Futures (Dr Joanna Redden)
* 2) ”End of Life Decisions in the News: Medical Ethics, Law and Democracy” (Professor Jenny Kitzinger)

The School of Journalism, Media and Culture is a world leading centre for media teaching and research and offer a wide range of courses at various levels.

The School combines a long standing record of excellence in teaching and training with an outstanding research portfolio routinely winning awards from a range of bodies. This reputation was recently recognised in the 2014 Research Excellence Framework (REF), which ranked the School 2nd for the quality of its journalism, media and communications research when compared with 66 other institutions in the UK. 89% of the School’s research was classed as ‘world leading’ or ‘internationally excellent’ by REF, with both the School’s research environment and the impact of its research receiving the top possible score of 100%. Our staff regularly contribute expert opinion and commentary about research and topical news events to the local, national and international media and through the School blog JOMEC@Cardiff University.

Applications are invited from exceptional candidates with a first class or strong upper second class honours degree, or appropriate Master’s degree. Both the University and the ESRC Wales DTP value diversity and equality at all levels and we encourage applications from all sections of the community. We welcome applications for both full and part-time study, and studentships are available as either ‘1+3’ (i.e. one full time year of research training Masters followed by three years of full-time Doctoral study, or the part-time equivalent), or ‘+3’ (i.e. three years of full-time doctoral study or its part-time equivalent), depending on the needs of the applicant.

These studentships are ‘collaborative’ awards. Applicants should take careful consideration of the working title and description of the project, and may wish to contact the named member of staff for a discussion prior to applying.

**WHAT THE STUDENTSHIP WILL COVER**

Studentship Awards commence in October 2019 and will cover your tuition fees as well as a maintenance grant (currently £14,777 p.a. for 2018/19 for full-time students, updated each year); and includes access to an additional Research Training Support Grant (RTSG), though an element of this latter fund may be ‘pooled’ and require separate applications from 2019 onwards. There are other opportunities and benefits available to studentship holders, including an overseas fieldwork allowance (if applicable), internship opportunities, overseas institutional visits and other small grants.

**ELIGIBILITY**

ESRC studentships are highly competitive, candidates should have an excellent academic background in the social sciences, holding a 1st or strong upper 2nd class degree; applications from those also holding a relevant research training Masters degree (or an equivalent background in research training) will be considered for a +3 award. Full awards (fees plus maintenance stipend) are open to UK Nationals and EU students who can satisfy UK residency requirements.

**ASSESSMENT**

The closing deadline for applications is 12.00 noon on Friday 1 February 2019. Short-listed applicants will be invited to interview, which are expected to take place in late February/early March 2019. After interview, a final short-list of applicants will be put forward to a Panel convened by the ESRC Wales DTP Management Group at which final decisions with regard to studentship awards will be made. In most cases successful applicants can expect to hear by early April 2019.

**HOW TO APPLY**

A **completed** [on-line application form](https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/research/programmes/programme/journalism-studies) for admission to doctoral study at Cardiff University by the deadline of 12 noon on 1 February 2019. Incomplete applications or applications received after this specified time will not be accepted. Please ensure that you indicate clearly which of the two collaborative awards you wish to apply for.

The application must contain the following documents:

1. Covering letter: Please address to Dr Cynthia Carter. The covering letter must name the collaborative studentship being applied for. It must set out your reasons and motivation for applying to study at Cardiff University, and the Journalism and Democracy Pathway; your understanding, and expectations of doctoral study; and your academic interests generally, and particularly how these relate to the description of the project supplied. The covering letter should be no more than two pages. Please also specify whether you wish to apply on a +3 or 1+3 basis.

2. Academic / Professional Qualifications: Where appropriate, this should also include proof of English Language Competency (7.5 IELTS minimum).

3. References: All applications require two academic references to be submitted in support. Candidates must approach referees themselves and include the references with their application.

4. Curriculum Vitae: This should be no longer than two pages.

5. Research Proposal: For collaborative studentships, the proposal should build directly on the outline description that has been supplied. The proposal should be up to a *maximum* of 1000 words, not including bibliographic references. We suggest that you use the following five headings in your research proposal:

* Your reflections on the title, aims and purpose of the research;
* An overview of some key research literature relevant to the study;
* Your proposals for developing the design and methods of the study;
* A description of potential outcomes of the project for understanding, knowledge, policy and practice (as appropriate to the topic);
* Bibliographic references