

ESRC Grand Union DTP Scholars Newsletter July 2017

A big thank you to all of you who filled in the Annual Report survey. Your feedback is really appreciated. As well as helping us with our reporting to the ESRC, your views on our events and training is being pored over and used to plan for next year.

Lots of you told us how much you valued the student-led events in the past year. So you'll be pleased to know that Will Allen and Ivo Gruev have kindly agreed to carry on as co-chairs of the **Scholars Association** next year. We will continue to work closely with them, but they would welcome some additional committee members with ideas/energy/enthusiasm. Please get in touch with them directly: william.allen@compass.ox.ac.uk and ivo.gruev@merton.ox.ac.uk

More news below, including our Grand launch party, an exclusive opportunity to get some work experience with the BBC (but move fast, as closing date on **Friday 28th**), and another to work with MSF.

Finally, now is a good time to think about planning your own academic networking and research events next year, or to design your own internship, or apply for a prestigious government placement (see below for ESRC scheme). We will be relaunching our interdisciplinarity and capacity-fund in the Autumn, but the same guidelines will apply and you can put in an application at any time. Everything you need to know about the funding opportunities open to you is available here: <http://www.granduniondtp.ac.uk/forms-and-guidance-current-award-holders>

Hope you all have a good Summer. Don't forget to take some holiday.

David Mills
Director, Grand Union DTP

DTP Grand Union Launch Welcome Party Friday evening 20th October (Friday 2nd week)

We are hosting a big launch party for all ESRC scholars (new and continuing) on Friday 20th October 7-10pm.

Riverside (if not canal-side) venue TBC. Hold the date...

Workshop opportunity for AHRC/ESRC DTP students at Oxford, Cambridge, and the Open University, in relation to a BBC Solutions-Focussed Season on Obesity
Weds 27 September, 10.30am-4pm, Broadcasting House, London

Research Council Policy Internships

The ESRC's latest call for Research Council Policy Internships Scheme is now live. Closing date for applications : 10 August

The internship scheme provides the opportunity for Research Council-funded PhD students to work for three months in one of a selected group of highly influential policy organisations. The student will be expected to produce at least one briefing paper, participate in a policy inquiry and/or organise a policy event, or equivalent piece of work.

Internships are awarded to a number of Parliamentary, Government Departments and Non-Governmental Bodies, Learned societies and organisations. The 22 Hosting Partners for the 2017/18 competition round are listed on the [RCUK website page](#), along with further information on the scheme, documentation and guidance for applicants.

The Research Council Policy Internships Scheme is being coordinated by the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) on behalf of all Research Councils. Questions about the internship should be addressed to the NERC Research Careers Team: researchcareers@nerc.ac.uk

Médecins Sans Frontières

MSF are interested in linking up with Oxford researchers through TORCH's Medical Humanities Programme to examine a number of potential areas of investigation that could enhance the impact of their projects in the field.

Areas they are eager to explore include:

- Attitudes towards terminal suffering and incurable illness in children and young adults in various African contexts and its relevance for end-of-life care: what can we learn from anthropological, socio-cultural, ethical, psychological, spiritual, legal... approaches to this challenge?
- Defining a comprehensive and dynamic approach towards protecting the physical and mental health of people on the move in the Middle East, Africa, and South America.
- How can we move towards an ever more patient-centred approach across diverse cultures including hearing the patient's voice, compassion, patient satisfaction and empowerment vis-à-vis maintaining his/her own health? Can lessons learned in a "Western" context be applied to a "developing country" context?

TORCH and MSF propose to organize a workshop in November 2017 around one or more of these themes in order to: Define the particular focus of the research project (research hypothesis, population(s) involved, expected output(s)...); Decide on the scope of the project (number of researchers involved, time-line, necessity or not for extra funding...); Identify cross-disciplinary needs to address the topic; Agree on practical aspects of collaboration between TORCH and MSF researchers (principle investigator(s), division of tasks, data ownership, joint publications or other outputs...)