

May 2017 edition

Nominations for ESRC Grand Union Scholars Committee 2017-2018

The time is approaching when we will be looking to elect a new scholars committee for the 2017-18 academic year. Enormous thanks are due to the current committee members who have done a fantastic job of representing the interests of all DTC students at various DTC committees/boards, etc, not to mention their organising of various social events over the year!

The association will continue to hold its own devolved autonomous budget from the DTC/DTP, again for academic and social networking. More information concerning the posts available on the committee, etc, was included in a message that was sent by the DTP Director on Friday 28th April 2017. All DTC students continuing in their funded period next year are asked to think about whether they might wish to serve on the committee. Students will need to self-nominate, and the deadline for nominations to be submitted to granduniondtp@socsci.ox.ac.uk is **Friday 16th June 2017**.

If you'd like to find out further information on what the Scholar's Committee roles involve, please don't hesitate to contact the current committee members (more information is available at <http://www.granduniondtp.ac.uk/scholars-association>):

Ivo Gruev (ivo.gruev@merton.ox.ac.uk) - President

Will Allen (william.allen@compas.ox.ac.uk) - Academic Officer

Laura Grima (laura.grima@sjc.ox.ac.uk) - Secretary

Christian Ruckteschler (christian.ruckteschler@merton.ox.ac.uk) - Treasurer

Don't forget that a full list of the current pathways representatives is available on the Grand Union DTP website at <http://www.granduniondtp.ac.uk/student-representatives>.

National ESRC Student Conference 2017

The ESRC is pleased to announce that registration for the **2017 ESRC Student Conference** is now open. The conference is being held at **Bloomsbury DTC, London on 15th and 16th June**. This 2 day conference is open to all ESRC funded students, including those in the Masters year of a 1+3 programme. The theme this year is 'Knowledge and Networking' with speaker panels, a variety of workshops and plenty of opportunities for networking, including a dinner reception on the first day.

This is a very popular event and a rare opportunity for students to network with others from across the entire doctoral training network.

Further information on the conference, including the programme of events and travel/accommodation expenses policy, is available on the [conference website](#). **Booking closes on 1st June 2017**.

Registration is offered via EventBrite and available [here](#).

'The new Grand Union Blog': Call for contributions

We are planning to develop a Grand Union blog on our News pages with regular contributions from Scholars and the Grand Union leadership team. It is a chance for you to share your experiences as an ESRC student, and to promote broader awareness of the opportunities your funding has given you. We want to use it to encourage a broader range of potential applicants to think about doctoral study, and to celebrate the social sciences!

Please get in touch with Ben or David if you'd like to write something for the site: all contributions warmly received.

DTC Annual Student Report/Survey

The DTC Annual Student Report/Survey is now open and can be completed at <https://weblearn.ox.ac.uk/direct/eval-evaluation/16196>. **It is mandatory** for all DTC students in receipt of studentship funding to complete the report/survey.

The responses rate currently stands at 24%. **Please could all students ensure that they complete the survey by the deadline of 12 noon on Friday 30th June 2017**. Many thanks to those who have completed it.

Staffing changes

All students are reminded that the Postgraduate Funding Coordinator, Daniel Meacoe, will be leaving his post the Social Sciences Division to take up a post in the University's Finance Division. **Daniel is currently working Wednesdays and Thursdays in his new post until Friday 9th June 2017**. After this date, Daniel will then work full time in his new role - during this period, while recruitment is ongoing for Daniel's successor, students are advised to send any queries relating to their studentships to granduniondtp@socsci.ox.ac.uk, and a member of the team in the Social Sciences Division will respond as soon as possible.

Funding guidance reminders

Full funding guidance, covering all of the schemes available to DTC/DTP students such as RTSG, OFE, DLT, OIVs, etc, is regularly updated at <http://www.granduniondtp.ac.uk/forms-and-guidance-for-current-award-holders>.

Training

For information on available training courses, please see the training website at <http://researchtraining.socsci.ox.ac.uk/>.

Don't forget to check the ESRC's National Centre for Research Methods (NCRM) portal at <http://www.ncrm.ac.uk/training/> for training courses available nationally.

Research Capacity Funding

The DTC/DTP provides funding for interdisciplinary projects - such as workshops, seminars or small conferences, etc - on a rolling basis, and you can apply for funds at any point. Now is the time to plan an event for next year.

Full guidance is available under the Research Capacity Funding section on the DTP website at <http://www.granduniondtp.ac.uk/forms-and-guidance-for-current-award-holders>.

Applications should be sent to Melanie Goodchild (melanie.goodchild@socsci.ox.ac.uk). Please note that the scheme is open to applications from students currently enrolled on DPhil programmes only.

Media Training

Is your research 'ready for the media'? Free [media training](#) is offered to all ESRC-funded academics who are working on news-worthy research projects.

The one-day training sessions are an opportunity for researchers, no matter what stage of their career, to develop their skills and feel comfortable handling media interviews. Whether a PhD student, postdoctoral researcher or senior fellow, the new practical media training session provides the guidance needed to engage the media with confidence - and plenty of opportunity to practice.

For more information, please see the Media Training document, attached.

<http://www.granduniondtp.ac.uk/forms-and-guidance-for-current-award-holders>