

# Grand Union DTP ESRC Postdoctoral Fellowships 2018



## Preparing a strong Fellowship proposal: Advice and guidance

8<sup>th</sup> December 2017, 11 -12.30pm  
Manor Road Building, Oxford



# Agenda



- Why apply for the 2018 ESRC postdoctoral fellowship?
- How might you might benefit from this fellowship?
- Reflections from a current award holder.
- What makes an outstanding application?
- Q and A
- More info at [www.granduniondtp.ac.uk/postdoc-fellowships](http://www.granduniondtp.ac.uk/postdoc-fellowships)

# Why apply?



- To consolidate and disseminate your PhD/DPhil research
- To strengthen your publication profile
- To boost the impact of your PhD/DPhil research
- To realise your future career ambitions (within or beyond the academy)
- To build academic networks
- To maximise knowledge exchange opportunities
- To gain new professional skills

But remember...you can't do everything. Do a few things well...

# Who can apply?

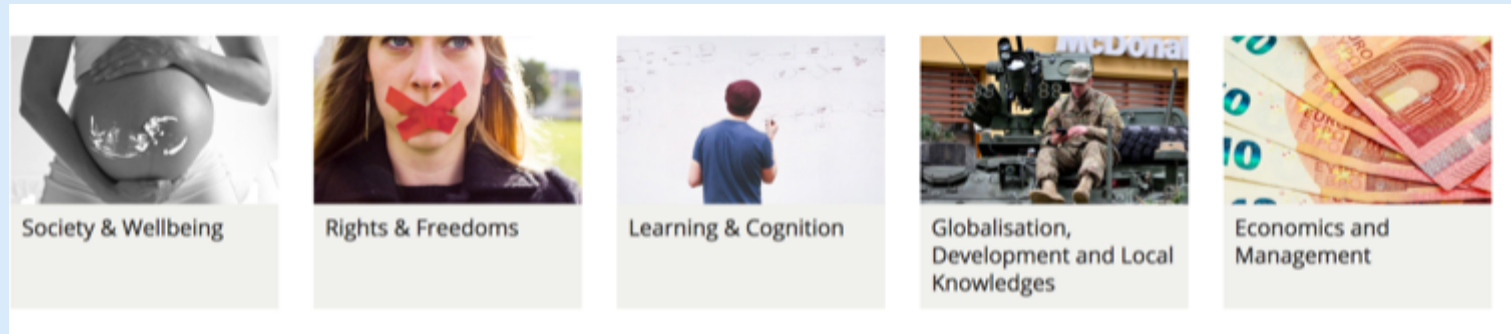


- This is a 12 month fellowship (24 months part-time) for those in the **immediately** postdoctoral stage
- Anyone who has completed a PhD within the last 12 months in one of the 73 UK universities within the DTP network is eligible
- The eligible 12 month period of postdoctoral experience is **from the viva voce being passed to the closing date of the competition, i.e. 23 March 2018.**
- At the submission deadline, the applicant must either have been awarded a PhD or have submitted their thesis and passed their viva voce with minor corrections, with the expectation that the PhD will be awarded by the fellowship start date.
- Fellowship activities must be aligned to one of the Grand Union DTP's 24 [thematic pathways](#) and based at least 50% within the social sciences.
- Career breaks and unemployment are eligible (see FAQs)

# What is the Grand Union DTP?



- ✓ Three universities collaborating in an ESRC doctoral training partnership
- ✓ 24 training pathways grouped into five thematic clusters
- ✓ More than 50 ESRC studentships a year and 4/5 postdoctoral fellowships
- ✓ A wide range of training innovations and funding opportunities
- ✓ A strong commitment to widening access to both PGR and postdoctoral study
- ✓ One equal partnership



# Why might this be the right fellowship for you?



- It could be a stepping stone for your next career move..
- Giving you skills for a career outside of the academy
- An opportunity to maximise the impact of your PhD
- A chance to build new networks

*In your groups, compare career plans and ideas for your fellowship.  
What is possible to achieve in a year?*

# How much is enough?



*Applicants must demonstrate a realistic and practicable programme of work in their proposal. (ESRC Call specification)*

**What can you realistically achieve in a year?**



# What does the fellowship include?



- The total cost for each fellowship can include the following:
- Fellow's salary costs
- Indirect costs
- Estate costs
- Up to £10,000 of other costs (to include costs such as mentoring costs, travel and subsistence, conference attendance, training, and fieldwork, for example).



# Perspectives from a current ESRC GCRF postdoctoral fellow..



Managing Development and Infrastructure: Understanding State Engagements  
with Rural Communities in Mongolia

Dr. Ariell Ahearn

School for Environment and Geography, Oxford University

<http://ariellahearn.wordpress.com>



# What can you do with these funds?



- Publish off the back of your PhD
- Consolidate and expand networks
- Communicate your research to the world
- Create ways for your research to have impact by organizing events, interfacing with policy makers and other stakeholders
- Participate in career development activities (training, teaching, etc)
- Apply for new grants and develop future ideas for research
- Do a limited amount of new research.

# Case for Support



- Expectation is that you build upon your PhD research
- You need to show that you have a proven track record and will follow through with your proposed activities.
- Summarize your PhD (what are the main arguments, methods and data)
- Demonstrate your research-related achievements to date
  - (i.e. publications, conference/event organization, teaching, RA work, grants awarded.
  - **Headings:** Building Networks; Interdisciplinary Research Projects,; Academic Administration and Teaching,; Academic Presentation, Writing and Publication.
- Explain “the impacts of your work so far and what activities you will undertake in order to achieve ongoing future impacts. “

# Suggested activities

- Think about impact!!
- How long will proposed activities take?
- Personal Blog or Webpage (i.e. Mosaic)
- Knowledge exchange events (3 KEs)
- Conferences (2017 Desert Conference)
- International Conference Panels/ Presentations
- Edit Special Issue
- Publications (chapters, peer-reviewed journals, edited books)
- Training (methods, impact evaluation, teaching, etc)
- Scoping/writing new grant applications
- Public speaking events
- Return to field-site follow-up
- Limited new research
- Placement with organization
- Find ways to bring together academics/non-academics
- Other events: Curiosity carnival



# How to build a good application



- Don't be too ambitious. 12 months is not long.
- Strong applications might well focus on particular areas of career development.
- You don't need to plan further research to make this a strong application



# Who to turn to for advice



- It will be vital to work with departmental research administrators (Oxford) or 'pathway leads' (especially at OU and Brunel).
- Key will be the statement made by your proposed mentor (who should **not** be your PhD supervisor, except in 'exceptional' cases)
- Head of Department support is vital too (remember departments will have to informally 'demand manage' this process)
- Take their advice as to whether there is a close fit and strong support.

# How will the application be assessed?

## 1. Quality of work programme

*Is the workload clearly defined and specified objectives achievable and realistic within the time allocated?*

*Are the proposed activities clearly justified in terms of supporting their longer term career aspirations?*

**2. Value for money** *Are costs clearly and adequately justified?*

**3. Impact and outputs** *Is the planned output during the fellowship appropriate and attainable?*

*Are there adequate plans to share the results and engage with academic and non-academic audiences?*

**4. Consideration of ethical issues, and how might these be addressed?**

# All contacts and queries?



[gudtp-pdf@socsci.ox.ac.uk](mailto:gudtp-pdf@socsci.ox.ac.uk)

[www.granduniondtp.ac.uk](http://www.granduniondtp.ac.uk)





# Grand Union DTP ESRC Postdoctoral Fellowships



## Writing a strong fellowship proposal: Advice and guidance

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# ESRC PDFs 2018: the application form.



- Objectives: a list of the objectives of the Fellowship.
- Summary: of research already conducted (and, if applicable, proposed) and work programme.
- Beneficiaries: who will benefit from the programme of work?
- Impact plan and user engagement: how you will engage with potential users of the research. Value of the research for the users.
- Ethical information: ethical issues and how you will address these. Ethical approvals?
- Resources (costing): department will help you with this.

These sections are *up to* 4000 characters each (except for Resources, which is a table).

Use Arial 11.



# ESRC PDFs 2018: attachments to the application form.

- Case for support (6 pages, A4, Arial 11).
- Justification of resources (2 pages, A4, Arial 11).
- CV (2 pages, A4, Arial 11).
- List of publications (bibliography for references cited in the proposal. A4, Arial 11).
- Head of Department statement (1 page, A4, Arial 11).
- Mentor Statement and CV (2 pages, A4, Arial 11).
- Referee statement (1 page, A4, Arial 11).
- Other: if applicable, letter of support from overseas institution (1-2 pages).



**Read the call  
specification for  
details on these  
sections!!**

# ESRC PDFs 2018: the case for support.



- Abstract/Summary of progress: where you are now in terms of your research.
- Impact of research: of current/planned research. Impact on you, subject area, research users.
- Research-related achievements: where you are now in terms of training and personal development.
- Planned programme of activities: tailored to support your long-term career aspirations.

You are not expected to undertake major new research!

Show you are maximising the impact of your PhD!



- Disseminate your results.
- Do networking.
- Engage with research users. Learn about non-academic impact.
- Do some teaching.
- Develop your skills further and/or develop new skills.

# Grand Union DTP ESRC Postdoctoral Fellowships



## Impact

Aileen Marshall-Brown

Senior Research Impact Facilitator, Social Sciences Division



# ESRC Expectations



## Stakeholder engagement and impact expectations

- You will have identified potential impacts of your research on policy and practice
- Actively consider how these can be maximised and developed

# At the heart...



- “Impact should be at the heart of the fellowship activities, therefore the **majority of activities** will be impact-related”



- “There is not a separate ‘Pathways to Impact’ attachment, as impact should be at the heart of the proposal and **woven through** any planned activities as the focus of the fellowship is on **consolidating** the outputs of the PhD”

*(quotes taken directly from ESRC guidelines)*

# Impact-related activities in call



- Engaging with different audiences
- Communicating research findings
- Building networks
- Collaborating with users (secondment/visit)
- Further training and skills development
- **User-led** research (up to 25%) following on from PhD
- Engaging with cross institutional structures e.g. IAA



# Impact in your application



## TAILORED, REALISTIC AND PRACTICABLE!

- **Application form**

- Objectives
- Beneficiaries (4000 characters)
- Impact plan and user engagement (4000 characters)
- Budget (10% impact, 'other costs')

- **Case for support (6 sides)**

- Impacts of your research
- Planned programme of activities



# Beneficiaries



- Who will benefit from your research?
  - Those who are likely to be interested
  - Those who are likely to benefit
- Wider than immediate professional circle
  - Other disciplines
  - Wider academic community – other institutions, countries etc.
  - Non-academic beneficiaries
    - **Publics/Communities, Public sector, Businesses, Civil Society**
    - **Policy-makers, practitioners, citizens, society, special interest groups**

PWR Communications  
 Thames Valley Police  
 Oxford Flood Alliance  
 Lagos State Government  
 The Alliance for Useful Evidence  
 Science Media Centre  
 Osney Lock Hydro  
 Federal Reserve Bank of New York  
 Oxfordshire Welfare Rights  
 Haida Gwaii Museum  
 Oxford City Council  
 Peace Research Institute Oslo  
**UNICEF**  
 Community Law Partnership  
 CO2 Estates  
 Westminster City Council  
 City of Cape Town  
 German Development Institute  
 Norwegian Research Council  
 Nairobi Government  
 Refugee and Migrant Centre  
 Ministry of Justice  
 Brazil  
 Birmingham Community Law Centre  
 Migrant Voice in Birmingham  
 Youth Justice Board for England and Wales  
**Met Office**  
 Manchester Police  
**UNFCCC**  
 Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer  
 Norwegian Defence Research Establishment  
 Oxford Archaeology  
**British Museum**  
 Ministry of Defence  
 International Committee of the Red Cross  
 Parliamentary and Health Services Ombudsman  
 NHS England  
 European Central Bank  
**DfID**  
**Metropolitan Police**  
 Carbon Brief  
 Eurojust  
 Federal Reserve  
 Bank of Chicago  
 Eurocities  
**Oxfordshire County Council**  
**Southwark Council**  
 Brushstrokes  
**UN High Commissioner for Refugees**  
 Meedan  
 The Commonwealth Cybercrime Initiative  
 OCHA  
 Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales  
 CQC  
**World Bank**  
**Bank of England**  
**WHO**  
**Home Office**  
 SQA  
 NESTA  
 South East Strategic Partnership for Migration  
**Nigerian Police Force**  
 Oxfordshire Construction Training Group  
**Environment Agency**  
 s Rights Service  
 Abogados y Abogadas del Noreste de Argentina en Derechos Humanos y Estudios Sociales  
 ANDHES  
 Affinis Global  
 Enhancing Learning and Research for Humanitarian Assistance  
**Cabinet Office**  
 CELS  
**BBC**  
 National Virtual School  
 Headteachers Steering Group  
 UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs  
**Financial Times**  
 Quilliam Foundation  
 Community Action Group  
 Oxfordshire  
 Secretary-General  
 Executive Office  
 Future Climate Construction Industry Training Board  
 Haida First Nation Community  
 Birmingham Settlement  
 Refugee and Migrant Forum  
 French Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
 Association of District Judges  
 Observatorio Luz Ibarburu  
 Ministry of Justice  
 Chile  
 HM Treasury  
**UNHCR**  
**OXFAM**  
 Barrow Cadbury Trust  
 Latin American Women  
 Fondation Hironnelle  
 UK National Crime Agency  
 Fleming Policy Centre  
 Low Carbon Oxford  
 Climate Central  
 Natural Resources Defense Council  
 Education Media Centre  
 Tibet Justice Center  
 Justice For All

# Impact plan and user engagement

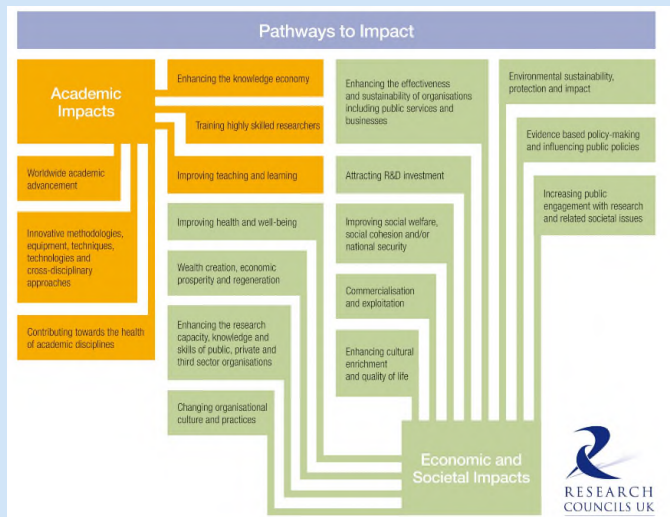


- Describe plans to:
  - Engage potential users of the research
  - Communicate the results of the research to such users
- The potential value of the research to users outside research community
- Describe impacts your research has had or you expect it to have on user communities

**\*\*\*Importance of effective communication of impacts from ESRC projects\*\*\***



# Case for support – Impacts of your research



Describe impacts you have had or expect to have:

- Impact of completed research + any new research
  - The dissemination of results
  - Building up a publication track record
  - Development of the research field
  - Influence on behaviour or understanding of users and policymakers
  - Impact on skills development and career prospects



# Case for support – Planned programme of activities



Plan of activities and key milestones

Tailored to career aspirations

Time for: maximising impact, communicating findings, building networks, developing collaborations with users, learning skills

Beneficiaries → Benefits → Approach [Inform/Consult/Collaborate] → Activities



## Impact related activities



- **Documents** – lay reports, case studies, policy briefs, recommendations, guidelines, teaching/training packs, user-led, POSTnotes, consultation responses, open access journals, trade magazines, posters
- **Digital media** – websites, social media, The Conversation, newspapers, blogs, databases, visualisations, toolkits, email, virtual platforms, films, podcasts, livestreaming, webinars, VR, apps
- **Face-to-face** – meetings, presentations, seminars, workshops, public engagement, giving evidence, demonstrations, training, debates, public lectures, open days, visits, exchanges, secondments, official trips
- **Working together** – user led research ideas, co-creating ideas and research, co-developed impact
- **Innovative ideas** – entrepreneurial ideas – licences, patents, spinouts, social enterprises

# Useful links



## Case studies

- ESRC- <http://www.esrc.ac.uk/news-events-and-publications/impact-case-studies/>
- REF impact case studies - <http://impact.ref.ac.uk/CaseStudies/>
- NCUB - <http://www.ncub.co.uk/success-stories.html>

## Guidance and info

- ESRC Impact Toolkit - <http://www.esrc.ac.uk/research/impact-toolkit/>
- Participation Compass - <http://participationcompass.org/>
- NCCPE - <http://www.publicengagement.ac.uk/>
- Fast Track Impact <http://www.fasttrackimpact.com/>
- LSE Impact Blog <http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/impactofsocialsciences/>
- UK Parliament <http://www.parliament.uk/research-impact>

## Internal

- [Oxford Impacts](#)
- [SSD case studies](#)
- [ESRC IAA project summaries](#)
- [Public engagement](#)