



Economic
and Social
Research Council



Commonwealth Students, UK Higher Education and the Making of Global Knowledge Networks, 1950–2000

ESRC DTP Joint Studentship

University of Leicester and University of Warwick

The Midlands Graduate School is an accredited Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) Doctoral Training Partnership (DTP). One of 14 such partnerships in the UK, the Midlands Graduate School is a collaboration between the University of Warwick, Aston University, University of Birmingham, University of Leicester, Loughborough University and the University of Nottingham.

We are now inviting applications for an ESRC Doctoral Joint Studentship between the *University of Leicester* (where the student will be registered) and the *University of Warwick* to commence in October 2021. The project will be supervised jointly by Dr Sally Horrocks (Leicester) and Dr James Poskett (Warwick).

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This project aims to assess the experiences of Commonwealth students who studied science in UK higher education from the 1950s to the 1990s. The project will identify the factors that shaped later career choices and uncover how their status as transnational actors affected their research and the networks they participated in. It will use a global and postcolonial history lens to examine the implications of studying in the UK for individuals and their families, the choices they made about where to focus their research and their ongoing connections to their home nation. The project will also establish how the changing landscape of UK higher education impacted upon the experiences of Commonwealth students and their subsequent careers.

The successful applicant will be able to shape the project to their own interests and expertise by selecting a focussed case study, for example on one country or scientific discipline. The project methodology will combine oral history interviews with archival research in the UK and internationally. In conjunction with their academic work, the student will contribute to identifying best practice in supporting international students. The interviews arising from this project will, subject to the relevant permissions, be archived in the British Library.

Applicants should have a strong undergraduate degree in History, Human Geography, Science and Technology Studies, or a cognate discipline. Knowledge of oral history or qualitative interview research methods would be an advantage but is not a prerequisite. Applicants may have completed a Masters degree by September 2021, but those without a Masters can be considered for a 1+3 award.

Application Process

- To be considered for this PhD, please complete the Joint Studentship application form [available online here](#) *along with a CV and writing sample* (eg. essay or dissertation chapter) and email this to esrcdtp@le.ac.uk. Shortlisted applicants will also be required to provide two references.
- **Application deadline:** Applications should be submitted by 17:00 on Monday 1st March 2021.
- **Interviews:** Shortlisted candidates will be interviewed on Tuesday 9th March 2021.

Midlands Graduate School ESRC DTP

Our ESRC studentships cover fees at the home rate, a maintenance stipend, and extensive support for research training, as well as research activity support grants. Support is available to both home and international applicants. For further details, visit: www.mgsdtp.ac.uk/studentships/eligibility/.

Informal enquiries prior to application can be directed to Dr Sally Horrocks, smh4@le.ac.uk