

***Are apprenticeships a genuine alternative to university study?
an investigation using administrative data***
ESRC DTP Studentship in collaboration with ADR UK

University of Birmingham and ADR UK

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 Studentship in association with [ADR UK](#) to commence in October 2023.

Summary of the project:

The last decade has seen much investment in apprenticeship provision in the UK with the aim of achieving ‘parity of esteem’ between academic and vocational study. There are some signs that a ‘cross-over point’ has been reached with apprenticeships now being regarded as an equally valuable alternative to university study. In this project, we aim to investigate whether apprenticeship is a genuine alternative to university study. We will use the LEO dataset and the DfE’s data on Higher Education Graduate Employment and Earnings (HEGEE) and Further Education: Outcomes-Based Success Measures (FEOBSM). If it is indeed so that a cross-over point has been reached, this should be evident through comparing the employment and earnings outcomes data for apprenticeships and graduate study.

This is a unique opportunity for a highly-motivated and self-driven individual to collaborate with experienced researchers at the University of Birmingham’s School of Education. Applicants should have an excellent Masters degree in a relevant subject, such as education and/or economics with an in-depth understanding and mastery of quantitative methods. Social research training and training on the use of administrative data are desirable but not essential as this can be provided as part of the studentship. We encourage applicants with relevant work experience; please include details of these in your personal statement.

Application Process

To be considered for this PhD, please complete the ADR UK Studentship application form [available online here](#). Please upload an anonymised CV and cover letter as part of the online application process. Shortlisted applicants will also be required to provide transcripts and two references.

Application deadline: 28 February 2023.

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 about the research or ADR UK prior to application can be directed to

Dr. Tarek Mostafa: T.Mostafa@bham.ac.uk

Dr. Ben Kotzee: h.b.kotzee@bham.ac.uk