



Empowering family self-efficacy through social tourism ESRC DTP Collaborative Studentship

Nottingham University Business School and the Family Holiday Association charity

This is a unique opportunity for a fully-funded ESRC Doctoral Studentship for applicants with a background in tourism, leisure studies, management, sociology, psychology, or other social science field. Nottingham University Business School (NUBS) as part of Midlands Graduate School in association with national charity the Family Holiday Association, has been awarded funding to investigate the potential beneficial effects of tourism for families who don't normally participate. The studentship will commence in October 2018.

Tourism can lead to positive outcomes for individuals and family groups, including relaxation and recuperation, strengthening of family bonds, expanding personal horizons, and geographical, historical and cultural knowledge. However, in the UK, despite being one of the wealthiest nations, around 40% of the population are not able to participate in a simple week's holiday away from home each year. For many, the main reasons are financial, but these can also include, illness, disabilities, caring responsibilities and others. There is currently no government funding to help support disadvantaged families to access a short, much needed holiday break. There are, however, hundreds of generally small charities working to provide such opportunities for different groups in the UK, providing what is termed 'social tourism'.

The project will examine how families who face complex multi-dimensional challenges benefit from a break and how the experiences gained contribute to a range of improvements, including individual and collective self-efficacy. Evaluation studies have identified that these programmes can lead to increases in family and social capital, self-esteem, quality of life and subjective well-being (SWB), and to changes in behaviours, which could yield wider societal benefits. Yet there is little sense of how these outcomes contribute to changes in attitudes and behaviours, such as self-efficacy.

By working with the leading national dedicated to social tourism in the UK, the research will have a direct impact on families with the findings disseminated widely throughout the sector, including its wide range of industry partners. The aim is that the research will ultimately help severely disadvantaged families become more resilient and better able to cope with their financial, health (mental and physical) and situational circumstances. For more information on the charity visit www.familyholidayassociation.org.uk.

Application Process

To be considered for this PhD, please complete the Collaborative Studentship application form [available online here](#) with a covering letter and a CV as well as two references email this to Karen Maltby, Karen.Maltby@nottingham.ac.uk.

Application deadline: Friday 25th May 2018

Midlands Graduate School ESRC DTP

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.

Our ESRC studentships cover fees and maintenance stipend and extensive support for research training, as well as research activity support grants. Support is available only to successful applicants who fulfil eligibility criteria. To check your eligibility, visit:

www.mgsdtp.ac.uk/studentships/eligibility/.

Informal enquiries about the research or NUBS prior to application can be directed to:

scott.mccabe@nottingham.ac.uk.