



SOCIAL MOBILITY STUDENT RESEARCH HUB

Dr Ellis Ryan & Dr Tammy Thiele

2024-2025



Overview

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What is the Social Mobility Student Research Hub?

- The Social Mobility Student Research Hub (SMSRH) provides a platform for students from underrepresented backgrounds to develop their own research projects in areas related to WP, inequality, diversity, and inclusion that are of interest to them
- The SMSRH offers funding, research training, an assigned postgraduate mentor, academic support and opportunities for collaboration

“It’s giving students that platform to really speak on issues that matter to them if that makes sense.” – Former SMSRH student researcher

“It’s nice to see Warwick putting in that time and effort for students who don’t have a platform... I’ve never seen something like this before that gives students from WP groups a voice and an opportunity, a platform as research is so exclusionary, like they’re all middle class. I think this is a gateway to improving access to postgrad and it should be like wider than the university, involve all the universities.” – Former SMSRH student researcher

Who is eligible to apply?

- The project will fund up to **ten students** from WP backgrounds
- Must be considered **home/UK** students (for fee status)
- A full list of criteria is available on the website, but includes:

Former eligibility for Free School Meals, coming from areas of high deprivation and/or low levels of participation in higher education, being in receipt of a bursary or other means tested financial support, participation in a university Widening Participation programmes, such as Warwick Scholars, Realising Opportunities, Sutton Trust etc.



What is involved?

- Applying and proposing a project idea related widening participation (WP), inequality and/or inclusion.
- Conducting research over approximately six-months. We anticipate you spending around 70 hours on this project in total, (averaging at about 3 hrs per week, though time spent can vary)
- Developing research skills and experience with support from postgraduate mentors and University staff
- Attendance at workshops, drop-in sessions, and to regularly meet with your mentor
- Submission of a written report. Your final output could be in a variety of different formats (e.g. report, presentation, podcast, video, poster)
- Presentation of your project at the end of programme SMSRH conference

* There is a stipend of £1,000 to support you during your research process



WARWICK
THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

**SOCIAL MOBILITY
STUDENT RESEARCH HUB
CONFERENCE**

showcasing research projects students developed to explore different themes related to Widening Participation, inequalities, and social mobility.

**11 SEPTEMBER 2024
10 AM – 2 PM**

📍 Junction, Central Campus - JX2.02

Info & Registration

✉ socialmobilityhub@warwick.ac.uk

🌐 <https://warwick.ac.uk/study/outreach/studentprojects/>



KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
DR REBECCA MORRIS

What is involved? SMSRH 24-25 Expectations & Timeline



Dates for your diary	Event type	Notes
10 th December 2024 (midnight)	Applications close	Submit application here. Applicants will hear by 19 th December if successful.
15 th January 2025	Introductory Workshop & Ethics training	Introductions, meet your mentors and ethics training.
26 th February 2025	Deadline for research ethics approval	During January and February, you will work with your mentor to gain ethics approval for your project. You should have full approval from the SMSRH team by this date.
19 th March 2025	Workshop 2	Workshop 2 will cover the data collection and data analysis elements of your project.
30 th April 2025	Workshop 3	Workshop 3 will be guided by student need.
4 th June 2025	Drop-in Session 1	Student support session.
9 th July 2025	Project Output draft submission	A draft written report is expected. Your output can also take the form of a video, podcast, poster or zine.
30 th July 2025	Project Output final submission	Final output submission is due.
15 th October 2025	SMSRH conference	10 minute presentation, slides to be sent to the SMSRH the week prior.

What support will I get?

- You will have a mentor to support you through the process.
- They will work with you to develop your idea, bounce ideas off, give you advice and guidance.
- You will also be part of a collective: the Social Mobility Research Hub
- Project leads will be overseeing the entire project and are there to support you

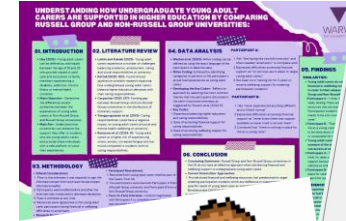


The application process: developing your research question

Your research question should relate to Widening Participation, inequality, diversity or inclusion. You can see the previous years projects via our website [here](#).

For this years programme, priority will be given to students who submit a research proposal addressing the following themes:

- **Supporting Mature students to succeed at University**
- **Enhancing access and opportunity for care experienced students**
- **Creating a culture of inclusivity to ensure Black students achieve at the same rate as White students**
- **Address mental health challenges to enable all students to succeed**
- **Ensure more students from low socio-economic backgrounds access, thrive and succeed at Warwick**



2023-2024 Student Project Themes



Student Experience

- Cultural Capital and the Social Hierarchy: An Exploration of Student Experience.
- Autistic Widening Participation Medical Students: How do they get on?
- Are trans and non-binary students excluded from sports at universities? If so, how can we combat this?



Breaking Barriers

- Student Loans: A Barrier to Higher Education for Muslims.
- How Imposter Syndrome Affects Students from Ethnic Minority and Low-income Backgrounds.
- Does AI bridge the Gap? A Study on How AI Supports Disadvantaged Students in Achieving Academic Excellence.
- The Hidden Cost of Disability.
- Understanding how undergraduate young adult carers are supported in higher education by comparing Russell Group and non-Russell Group Universities.



Journeys to Higher Education

- Understanding the Impact of Financial Constraints on the Academic Journey of Working-Class Students at Warwick University.
- A Comprehensive Study on the Pathways and Challenges Faced by First-Generation Students in Higher Education.
- Why are PGT WP Students Withdrawing More, Attaining Less and Earning Less than UG WP Students?
- Which establishments on the University of Warwick campus are safe spaces for students?

An Exploration of the Relationship Between Physical Spaces and Accommodation on Campus and Student Experience

By: Olivia Collins

Whitefields kitchen



As a first year student who was new to the university system and extremely far from home, I stayed in Whitefields accommodation, paying the cheapest rent available (£85 pw), and sharing facilities with 11 other students. I noticed the difference in the facilities provided for different accommodations, having stayed in a small, outdated flat much less impressive than other newer, larger, and more expensive accommodation options. I also encountered many stereotypes of different types of accommodations and different types of students.

Kitchen showing fridge, toaster, work surface, plentiful cupboard space and windows

(warwick.ac.uk/services/accommodation/studentaccommodation/whitefields, 23/05/2022)

The application process: Research Methods and the Ethical review process

- Interviews, focus groups, surveys, literature reviews, secondary research and arts-based methods are all feasible and supported but the types of participants (e.g. if they are vulnerable groups, children, people with disabilities) must be considered and no animals
- Who, Why, When, Where, How? - Who are the participants? Why have they been chosen for this study? When will they be recruited? Where will the participation take place? How will they be recruited?
- Appropriateness of recruitment process to recruit the estimated sample size.
- Clear inclusion / exclusion criteria - Are any participants being unfairly excluded from the study? Is the inclusion/exclusion criteria justified? Are appropriate screening procedures in place?
- [Application Form for Research Ethical Approval \(warwick.ac.uk\)](https://warwick.ac.uk)

The application process: Try to be SMART

- Specific aims and Measurable objectives ensuring it is Achievable, Realistic and Timebound
 - Consider ethics, how you will recruit participants, where, when and why you are focusing on specific groups if appropriate

Key dates

- Applications are open now until **10th December 2024** at midnight
- Applicants to be informed of outcomes around the **19th December 2024**
- Workshops start **15th January 2025**, opportunity for mentors and mentees to meet
- Social Mobility Research Hub conference **October 2025**



**FEEL FREE TO CONTACT US,
CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE
AND APPLY:**

socialmobilityhub@warwick.ac.uk

[Social Mobility Student Research Hub \(warwick.ac.uk\)](http://warwick.ac.uk)

