

Methods Specialist – SGSSS Training Network

Job Purpose

To support the Deputy Director – Training and the Associate Director – Core Methods Training to develop and deliver methods training that meet the demands of the SGSSS, an Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) Doctoral Training Partnership (DTP). The role holder will be part of the Training Network that ensures SGSSS is an inclusive and collaborative consortium promoting postgraduate training in the social sciences across Scotland.

The role holder will contribute to the next phase of the SGSSS-DTP development, including implementation of the new training ambitions of a recommissioned DTP with particular responsibilities for training design, analysis, implementation and evaluation. The newly formed Training Network will consist of 10 methods experts representing excellence in Scottish education.

Dimensions

This post is initially available on a 0.2 FTE basis, for a three year term from September 2023 to be reviewed by the Director and Supervisory Board in line with the DTP mid-term review.

The role holder's home institution (which must be part of the SGSSS DTP) is expected to make the role holder available to undertake the role (free of charge to SGSSS), with any appropriate workmodel related adjustments.

The role can be undertaken from the role holder's home university, and in person presence is expected at relevant meetings, training events, student activities etc. These will be planned in advance with the senior team and professional services team. Home institutions are expected to cover the costs associated with any meeting attendance.

Additional Information

www.sgsss.ac.uk

Established in 2011, the Scottish Graduate School of Social Sciences brings together the expertise of sixteen universities across Scotland to provide a world-class research environment for social science PhD researchers. SGSSS is led by the Director (0.5 FTE), supported by the Deputy Director (Training) and Deputy Director (Studentships and Partnerships) (both 0.5 FTE), alongside six Associate Directors (0.3 FTE work-model allocation) and a team of professional services staff, led by the Head of Strategy and

Operations. Governance is overseen by a Supervisory Board, with representatives from all partner universities and non-HEI collaborators.

In 2016, the Doctoral Training Partnership was established as part of a UK-wide national network of 14 DTPs. The first doctoral students were welcomed in October 2017 and the first postdoctoral fellows in 2019. *The next phase of recommissioning has been applied for, with outcomes expected from the ESRC in August 2023. It is anticipated that the DTP funding will be renewed for a further five cohorts of PhD students, with the first students starting in October 2024.* [ESRC Doctoral Training Partnerships: 2024 – UKRI](#).

The Doctoral Training Partnership grant from ESRC supports annual open, supervisor-led and collaborative studentship competitions, and the subsequent studentship funding and training. Financial investment from the Scottish Funding Council and partner universities supports the annual summer school, a programme of advanced training, a range of collaborative opportunities and the development of on-line training resources. Students are offered internship opportunities with a range of private, public and third-sector partners, and access to a series of mentoring programmes. The majority of training and other activities offered by SGSSS are available to any Social Science doctoral student at one of our sixteen partner universities.

As Scotland's national graduate school for social sciences, SGSSS is able to respond to and influence best practice across the sector, act collaboratively to promote social science research and doctoral training policy, and promote the very best doctoral experience.

SGSSS is situated within the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences within the University of Edinburgh.

If you require this document in an alternative format please contact HR by email at HRHelpline@ed.ac.uk or by telephone on 0131 651 5151.

Interviews are likely to w/b 10 July, candidates unable to meet this, let us know and reasonable adjustments can be affected.

Job Description

The appointment will be a 0.2FTE role and applicants will either be operating at Grades 9-10 or, at a lower grade where their expertise is considered 'new' and/or 'cutting-edge'.

Applicants are advised to discuss this role with their line managers in advance of applying. All candidates below grade 9 are encouraged to discuss with their line manager, whether a role with the Training Network supports their career development, prior to application.

The role holder's home institution (which must be part of the SGSSS DTP) is expected to make the role holder available to undertake the role (free of charge to SGSSS), with an appropriate work-model related adjustments.

This post will deliver a new Training Network, which will design and implement an innovative new training suite to support a PhD community. The Network will be responsible for delivering research methods teaching that meets the ESRC's Postgraduate Training Guidelines in full. The students will be ESRC/SGSSS studentship award holders at the start of research that cover an array of topics, with some working with advanced methodologies, and with collaborative partners.

Detailed Description

Reporting to the Associate Director – Core Methods and the Deputy Director – Training, this post is intended to play a significant role in leading research methods teaching for SGSSS and our partner institutions. The successful candidate will pursue a research agenda at their home institution, related to their specialist area of methodology, and experienced in developing and delivering excellent training opportunities for post-graduate students.

The new courses are inter-disciplinary and will fuse qualitative and quantitative approaches. Candidates will be open to working with colleagues from ‘other’ specialisms in order to develop new materials. Candidates with experience working with mixed methods are particularly welcome. Candidates can come from any social science discipline, though teaching materials produced will have to be accessible to students from ‘other’ disciplines. There are five broad categories that we need to see represented in the Training Network and you are expected to contribute, as a specialist to at least one of these. These categories are indicative, not exhaustive and other specialisms that meet the broad definition are valued.

1. A broad understanding of qualitative methods and demonstrable excellence in delivering training in a specialist field, for example: archival approaches; phenomenology; discourse analysis; ethnography; photovoice; creative methods.
2. A broad understanding of quantitative methods and demonstrable excellence in delivering training in a specialist field, for example: using software and coding; data linkage; using secondary data; regression and multi-level modelling; social network analysis; structural equation modelling. This list is not exhaustive and other specialisms are valued.
3. Project management including expertise in research integrity; open science; ethics; forming research questions; dissemination strategies and project operationalisation.
4. Digital approaches to data collection and analysis, inclusive of quantitative or qualitative methods. This category includes web scraping or mining; using social media as a data source; digital data management and digital ethics.

A webinar, outlining more detail on the methods vision for SGSSS and providing an opportunity to ask questions will be hosted by the Deputy Director Training on Thursday 25th May at 2-3pm.

Topic: Training Network SGSSS Webinar

Time: May 25, 2023 02:00 PM London

<https://uofglasgow.zoom.us/j/83880612479?pwd=bXhBSGdNTmVhN2FkSzhYQjhLK1pCdz09>

Meeting ID: 838 8061 2479

Passcode: 005305

Alternatively, queries can be emailed to team@sgsss.ac.uk

Key Duties and Responsibilities

Working with the Training Network and reporting to the Associate Director – Core Methods, the post-holders will:

- Contribute to strategic responsibility for the delivery of social science-focused methods training, and operational responsibility for tasks that articulate with their home institution, for example, examination boards and assurance checking
- Engage with pedagogical literature to craft learning spaces that meet the highest standards commensurate with a national graduate school
- Develop and deliver highest standard of methods teaching according to broad and specialist expertise in one, or a number of research methodologies
- Develop and deliver teaching to SGSSS/ESRC-funded students with potential development of materials for broad dissemination in Scotland, to reach the wider SGSSS community of post-graduate students, which could include sharing learning materials such as PowerPoints with partner institutions.

- Engage with and provide flexible, appropriate, and timely support to students using a variety of media.
- Prepare and mark assessments as required, and in line with agreed policies and standards.
- Contribute where relevant to Boards of Studies meetings related to research methods.
- Keep apprised of relevant policy documents that influence the teaching of research methods including ESRC guidelines relating to methods, ethics and research integrity
- Undertake other duties as required by the SGSSS Directorate.

Education, Qualifications and Experience

Essential criteria

- A PhD in a relevant field.
- Expertise in social scientific research methods.
- Leadership experience in a learning & teaching context (e.g. programme leadership).
- Understanding of typical HE quality assurance processes and practices.
- Substantial experience of teaching research methods.
- Willingness and ability to travel to and teach on Glasgow or Edinburgh campuses.

Note: Applicants at earlier stages of their career (for example, Grade 8) may have module rather than programme leadership, have some experience of teaching research methods and experience in a 'new' and/or 'cutting edge' method

Desirable criteria

- A world-leading publications record, with clear plans for continued development.
- Understanding/experience of research practices in commercial organisations as well as in academia.
- A track record of successful research funding applications.
- Expertise in advanced quantitative methods/data science; advanced qualitative methods; project management and or digital approaches
- Experience of the development and delivery of distance-learning and/or hybrid materials.

Note: Applicants at earlier stages of their career may evidence a developing trajectory in publishing research; have contributed to research funding applications

How to Apply

Submit a CV and cover letter to the Deputy Director – Training at team@sgsss.ac.uk 26th June 2023. Interviews are anticipated to be held on Monday 10th or Tuesday 11th July – some flexibility can be provided for candidates unable to attend on these dates.

Before submitting your application, seek support from your institutional member of the SGSSS [Deans of Graduate Studies Network](#). A letter, supporting your application must be submitted with the CV and Cover letter.

NOTE: There may be an internal process in operation at your institution. Please contact your Dean of Graduate Studies to determine the protocol to follow: [Governance – Scottish Graduate School of Social Science \(sgsss.ac.uk\)](#)

Note: Glasgow and Edinburgh will be appointing two posts and there may be institutional requirements that cap appointments at a Grade 9, please discuss with the relevant Dean.

The cover letter should be no longer than 3 pages of A4, using a font size no smaller than 11. The cover letter should outline how you meet the essential and desirable criteria and provide some detail on your methods specialisms and how you would contribute to the course development and delivery.

The CV should be no more than 10 pages long and using a font size no smaller than 11. The CV should cover the following: Key roles & profile; employment history; qualifications; teaching experience; supervision; esteem; non-academic roles; income; publications.

Appointments will be made by a panel chaired by the SGSSS Deputy Director – Training, and including members from the Training Implementation Working Group. Appointments will ensure that the Training Network represents diversity in specialist expertise; career grade and protected characteristics.