

Research in Practice (RinP)

In this next phase of the Scottish Graduate School of Social Science, “Research in Practice” will be a core component of the doctoral experience for all ESRC funded students.

What is Research in Practice?

Through Research in Practice, SGSSS aims to equip ESRC-funded students to be the next generation of research leaders. We want our PhD students to be confident in collaborating across sectors and disciplinary boundaries.

To support this, SGSSS will offer a suite of development opportunities and training. These opportunities will enable students to apply their research skills in new environments, to communicate with impact, and to proactively engage in their own personal development and career direction.

All ESRC funded students are expected to undertake a placement as part of their studentship. The placement should be 3 months (full time students) or 6 months (part time students) and is included as part of the standard 3.5 year award. Students who do not complete a placement will have their funding reduced to 3.25 years.

What are the requirements for a placement?

- The placement must be separate to the PhD student’s research and be designed to support their researcher development, sector knowledge and transferable skills.
- Students must undertake the placement in the second or third year of their PhD study, with more than 3 months remaining before their funding end date.
- Placements can take place within academia or outside academia.
- Academic placements must not be undertaken with the student’s current supervisor and/or research team and must take place outside of the student’s home department.
- Students will discuss placement plans with their supervisor team and SGSSS at the Development Needs Analysis.
- SGSSS must approve all placement proposals in advance to confirm that they meet the placement requirements.

What kind of placement can students undertake?

All placements should focus on a discreet project, challenge or research question which will enable students to build on their PhD skills. The placements can take place in a UK setting, or – where there is a clear rationale for doing so – overseas.



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SGSSS Academic Partner-led placements

- Hosted by a research centre, research team or professional services team.
- Placement should not be with student's current supervisor and/or research team and should be outside of the student's home department.
- Set up by SGSSS and open to ESRC funded students only.

SGSSS Non-Academic Partner-led placements

- Hosted by partners in the public, private or third sector.
- Part of SGSSS' established internship scheme with two calls a year in February and July.
- Open to all Social Science PhD students in Scotland.

SGSSS Student-led placements

- Student identifies host and sets up placement.
- Host can be academic - outside of home department and not with current supervisor,
- Or non-academic.
- SGSSS supports the student and host to create a robust proposal, supports set up and admin of stipend.
- SGSSS will provide a suite of resources to support students in sourcing and approaching hosts.

External placement opportunity

- Student secures external placement opportunity e.g., UKRI Policy Internship Scheme, IAA institution specific placements, or other relevant opportunities.
- The placement must meet the ESRC placement criteria and cannot be paid in addition to the stipend payment.
- Student contacts SGSSS for approval that the placement meets funding requirements before the placement begins.

You can find more information about the SGSSS Internships Scheme [here](#) and see some case studies of SGSSS placements [here](#). Contact team@sgsss.ac.uk with any questions.