

Q&A session

SGSSS Internships competition



Scottish
Graduate
School of
Social
Science

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Sòisealta na h-Alba



Economic
and Social
Research Council



Scottish Funding Council

Promoting further and higher education

Introductions



Flaminia Raiteri

Employability and Partnerships Manager

Rebecca Grant Tamasi

PhD Researcher, successfully completed an SGSSS Internship

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Organisational Development & Change Manager, Scottish Borders Council

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Agenda

- 1. The SGSSS Internship programmes**
- 2. Benefits of undertaking a SGSSS internship**
- 3. Host-organisations introductions**
- 4. Application process outline**
- 5. Q&A**

SGSSS Internship programmes



- Paid opportunities for PhD researchers to gain experience with partner organisations in the public, private or third sector. ([UKRI stipend rate](#))
- Internships can be undertaken full-time (for up to 3 months) or part-time (for up to 6 months).
- We run a biannual Open Call Competition (**Summer Call is now open!**)
- **Or you can get in touch with us at any time to discuss setting up an internship with a partner organisation of your choice (Student-led internship)**

Eligibility



- You must be registered for a PhD at a Scottish university in any social science discipline.
- You must be in your 2nd or 3rd year (or part-time equivalent) at the date of the start of the internship and with more than 6 months left of their PhD.
- You must be eligible to work in the UK (Employment in the Civil Service is restricted to specific nationals) - see [Internship FAQs](#) for further details.
- Tier-4 visa students can only access part-time internship options. Maximum of 20 hours per week. Stipend will be paid pro-rata.

Benefits of an SGSSS internship



- It gives valuable insights to different kind of research career, working environments and activity;
- It helps to develop transferable skills and sector knowledge that could be crucial for any career paths (academic and not);
- It provides an opportunity to step back from your PhD and make a meaningful difference in a new context.

SGSSS Intern experience

Rebecca Grant,
Intern in the National Performance
Framework Unit, Scottish
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Summary

- 3 month internship in the National Performance Framework unit
- International benchmarking of National Wellbeing Frameworks across the OECD, EU

National Performance Framework Our Purpose, Values and National Outcomes



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Motivations and highlights



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Motivations and highlights

- Apply existing research skills to new topic area
- Working at the interface of policy and research
- Presenting (and refining) research for policy audience
- Affirming- PhDs are valuable!
- Opportunities to innovate/ suggest change

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Application tips



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Applications tips

- Mirror language and skill sets outlined in application
- Review internships on SGSSS → email lead contacts
 - Tailor application to specific skills required
- Pick an internship in a field outside of your PhD
 - Good break from the PhD (3+ years on similar topics!)

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**Making the most
of it!**



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Making the most of it

- ◎ Say yes to opportunities offered its only 3 months!
- ◎ Take advantage of various learning opportunities offered
- ◎ Reach out and email organizational contacts to meet
- ◎ Develop professional and personal development goals at the start with your manager

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Challenges?



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Challenges?

- ◎ Remote working can be isolating...
 - ◎ Reach out to other internships for coffee, lunch, pub trips, runs etc.
 - ◎ Schedule a weekly (bi monthly?) coffee morning
 - ◎ Get to know your team - > join meetings where appropriate
- ◎ **Enjoy!** I couldn't recommend the experience highly enough



Thanks!

Any questions ?



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Online application process



- Personal details, Period of PhD study, Pathway or discipline
- Choose internship host and title
- Description of the skills and experience you bring to the internship (max 1000 words)
- Statement on your reasons for applying, what you'd hope to gain from an internship and how this fits with your PhD or career plans (max 500 words)
- CV (2 pages max)
- Statement of Support from your Supervisor. Make your supervisor aware of the timeline to contribute to your application within the deadlines.

Tip: Complete your application at least 48 hours in advance of the deadline.

Summer Competition Timeline



Q&As – from registration form

- **PART-TIME/FULL-TIME ARRANGEMENTS** – Part-time students can work on a part-time internship. You must be in your third, fourth, fifth or sixth year of part-time study (equivalent to second or third year full time) when you start the internship. You must consult your University and Funder for approval to undertake internships during your studies
- **PHD FUNDING AND INTERNSHIP PAYMENT** – For ESRC-funded students, there will be no interruption to your funding – instead you will receive an additional three months funding when your studentship is complete. For non-ESRC funded students, your institution will administer monthly payments during your internship to the amount of the stipend level. Any regular funding will typically pause for the duration of the internship and resume once the internship is complete. Students undertaking a part-time internship may continue to receive funding
- **COMMITMENT AND FLEXIBILITY** – How much flexibility does the internship provide to accommodate research commitments?
- **INTERNSHIPS OPPORTUNITIES** – Summer call (promoted in February), Autumn call (promoted in July), and student-led opportunities (any time you are ready for it!)
- Can I apply for an internship outside my discipline?

All the best for your application!

For any questions:
team@sgsss.ac.uk

