



Student-Led Training Fund (SLTF) 2021 (for events taking place in 2021/22)

Guidance

1. Introduction

The Scottish Graduate School of Social Science (SGSSS) is committed to providing high quality training in research methods, graduate attributes and transferable skills to our postgraduate students. We do this in the following ways:

Stream	Training Element
Advanced Methods	Advanced Training: 12 sessions held monthly across Scotland informed by TNA results
	Summer School: 5 days of advanced training with multiple sessions for students to choose from
	Spring into Methods: Interdisciplinary workshops run in partnership with SGSAH
Disciplinary Training	Pathway Training Fund (PTF): Funding provided for training gaps identified by pathways/subject areas
	Hub Festival: 2 day event that brings 'Hubs' of pathways and subject areas together to consider the role of social sciences

The Student-led Training Fund (SLTF) is an initiative that supports the delivery of advanced and specialist training events (in addition to the above), where students can make an argument that their event offers something new and useful. In 2022 we have permission to open this opportunity up to Early Career Researchers (ECRs).

The definition of ECR is as follows: a university employed researcher, usually with a PhD, on a fixed-term research contract. An ECR is usually considered to be within seven years of completing their doctorate, although exceptions can be made for career interruptions.

The SLTF aims to deliver the highest quality advanced training to postgraduate students in Scotland through producing a year-round calendar of events. The fund is not to be used for core training delivered through Masters level modules, or to provide standard training that higher education institutions deliver to PhD students.

Covid-19 Disruption

Due to the uncertainty around face-to-face training, for the next SLTF round, we are seeking training that is delivered online, and are particularly interested in training that promotes digital data collection and analysis. Rather than providing funding to cover catering, travel etc., we will pay students a fee for their design and delivery of the session.

Training can fall into one of three themes:

- Advanced Methods
- Well-Being, including resilience and adjusting research plans
- Employability

The application process for SLTF is open to all social science PhD students studying in Scotland (as well as ESRC-funded students currently in their master's year of a 1+3 award) **who have the right to work during their studies.**

2. Types of Training

New training

We warmly welcome proposals for training. We welcome innovative/cutting edge ideas around current gaps in provision.

Cross-institution/subject proposals

We especially encourage students to put forward cross-institution or subject event proposals, jointly conceived events that will meet the needs of students across a number of SGSSS subjects or institutions. This enables the cohort-building effect that students often value beyond their own university and discipline.

Online learning

We are committed to developing online learning resources for all our students and invite event proposers to consider how their event might be captured for synchronous as well as asynchronous use. In some instances, it might be possible to film or record presentations on the day of the event. Alternatively, it might be possible for the event speaker to create a short podcast of particular aspects of the training for us to make more widely available, alongside associated learning materials. We realise that it will not always be possible to deliver both synchronous and asynchronous learning dimensions.

3. Eligibility

The application process for SLTF is open to all social science PhD students studying in Scotland (as well as ESRC-funded students currently in their master's year of a 1+3 award) and ECRs who have the right to work during their studies. We welcome SLTF proposals from all 16 partner HEIs: Aberdeen; Abertay; Dundee; Edinburgh; Glasgow; Glasgow Caledonian; Heriot-Watt; Highlands & Islands; Napier; Queen Margaret; Robert Gordons; SRUC; St Andrews; Stirling; Strathclyde; West of Scotland.

All training events should be available to 1+3 and + 3 students or equivalent, regardless of funding status.

4. The Purpose of the Fund

The overall fund is £5,000 per year. Each person preparing and delivering the learning materials for an event will be paid £250 for their overall contribution to a half day event and £500 for a full day event. No more than two students, or two ECRs can contribute to a single event, therefore events should cost between £250 and £1,000. Where two students or ECRs are involved, or the event is a full day, we encourage providing information about how this will be worth a higher investment (such as numbers of students that can be involved; commitment to synchronous delivery plus asynchronous materials; style of workshop etc.).

There is no cap on the number of applications that can be submitted by an individual or institution, as funds will be allocated to quality SLTF proposals that meet the terms of funding and eligibility described in this guidance.

What activity will be supported?

The SLTF will support training in line with the themes mentioned in section 1 (Advanced Methods; Well-Being, including resilience and adjusting research plans; Employability). Priority will be given to those that explicitly engage with the equality and diversity agenda in social science research.

5. How will the process be managed?

The deadline to submit an application for events that will take place between 01 September 2021 to 23 December 2021 is 4pm on **Friday 30 July 2021**. The deadline to submit an application for events that will take place between 01 April 2022 to 31 August 2022 is 4pm on **Monday 28 February 2022**.

We will only accept SLTF applications where the event is due to run more **than 6 weeks** after the deadline date. This is to allow time to review proposals, get booking information online and give students time to plan for their training needs in advance. The SGSSS online platform Social will be kept up to date with all our training events. The training must be delivered in full before **31 August 2022**.

Please use the notes below to help guide you through the SLTF process:

First Call Timeline	16 June 2021
	First call launched
	30 July 2021
	Deadline for applications
	Mid-August 2021
	Decisions made and communicated to applicants
01 September - 23 December 2021	
SLTF events to take place	

Second Call Timeline

17 January 2022

Second call launched

28 February 2022

Deadline for applications

Mid-March 2022

Decisions made and communicated to applicants

01 April to 31 August 2022

SLTF events to take place

1. SLTF application forms must be submitted via [Social](#) by 4pm on the relevant deadline date.
2. Applications are reviewed by the Deputy Director (Training) a Student Representative (Hubs and Training) and the Manager of SGSSS. As part of the process, we may request a call (via online platform or telephone) to find out more details and to help us finalise our decision. Our decision is then submitted to the SGSSS Directorate for final approval. This process is typically completed within 3 weeks of the application deadline.
3. Successful applicants are then issued an award letter and asked to submit a description of the event, if possible including the preliminary programme which can be advertised to students. They will also be asked for proof of their right to work (RTW) and set up on the University of Edinburgh system in order to receive payment (although RTW will be established prior to the event, payment will be made after the event has run).
4. SGSSS will set up a registration system for each approved event to allow for attendance booking, monitoring and data collection. If you prefer, you can facilitate your own registration however the **SGSSS must receive details of attendees, including their HEI, year of study and funding status to collate the data we require for the ESRC.** We will also publicise the event through our website, social media, Social mailing lists and other external channels, as appropriate to the event and in collaboration with the event organiser, who is also expected to undertake active dissemination of their event through their networks.
5. Regarding payment for event delivery, SGSSS will pay the individual(s). **Please note, we will only pay for event delivery; we do not expect any additional associated costs.**
6. Before payment can be made, a list of attendees must be submitted within two weeks of the event along with a post-event evaluation.

5. Examples of events suitable for SLTF

The SLTF is available to offer advanced training that speaks directly to the needs of students. This may include advanced methods, however these funds should not cover anything that would feature at Core Training; either in terms of methods or in terms of disciplinary or substantive content.

There have been three broad types of training event that have been successful; these are described below to help deliver clarity on what makes a suitable SLTF event.

Event 1

Educational Reform in Scotland. An event hosted by one student in their writing-up year, who has completed relevant data analysis and can give oversight of contemporary policy structures in Education.

In addition to a background synthesis of this new data with relevant literature, the event includes a pre-recorded interview with a senior Scottish Government official who works closely with the Scottish Minister for Education. This interview will focus on substantive changes to the policy field in the last two years and considers the grand challenges facing Scottish Education over the next period.

£250 is paid to the student to deliver this session which will last approx. 2.5 hours; there is no cap on student numbers; there is also a limited time available for a Q&A.

Event 2

A student who uses zine-making as a method delivers training on this approach with their supervisor. The method is used specifically to examine how to engage children as participants, but the training makes some general points applicable to other groups of people.

£500 fees paid to the student as the event runs over one full day. The event will be capped at 30 students, will last for 6 hours and use Collaborate. The supervisor and student alternate to provide guidance and instruction, as well as technical support using the Collaborate chat function.

Event 3

Emerging from the Field: This training is focused on several aspects of returning from intensive or overseas field work. It is ideal for students who have researched in overseas locations where they used a language other than English, where they have spent more than three months 'away' and particularly where research has taken place in a conflict zone. The training is delivered by two students who provide the training together, including interactive sessions involving online 'breakout rooms' where each student works directly with a smaller group. The training is captured via Zoom and some written accounts of their experiences are available as legacy materials. The breakout sessions are not recorded, they are only available as a one-off live event.

This event will last 3 hours therefore each student is paid £250 with a total cost of £500. The breakout rooms will accommodate up to 30 students, 15 in each room. There is no cap on the number of students who engage with the initial training section.

6. Feedback from Previous Award Holders

The following are reflective comments from award holders who hosted events between July – October 2020.

- *In future workshops, I would plan more time for collaborative discussions and more detailed discussions of practical examples. I would also strongly encourage attendees to engage in Social and introduce their areas of research and post questions to the presenter in advance of the workshop.*
- *Lessons learnt: taking space to rethink is vital, people appreciated having a creative co-learning space to think about their respective institutions and how education could be conceptualised and delivered in alternative ways.*
- *Students requested we both run more sessions of similar training (Exploring Reflexive Writing as a Quantitative or Mixed Researcher).*
- *I observed that a one-day workshop (8 hours) can be exhausting for participants as understanding IE requires some background reading. It would have been a better idea to organise the workshop in two days (4 hours each day). I realised that some topic/concepts could have discussed in detail with sufficient example and exercises. More time for discussion will allow participants to grasp information easily. Also, developing some introductory video and sharing*

with participants prior to the workshop could be useful so that the student can have a basic understanding about IE and its related concept.