White Rose Doctoral Training Centre
ESRC Collaborative Studentship

The Department of Journalism Studies is now advertising a funded ESRC White Rose DTC Network Studentship based at the University of Sheffield (closing date 30 June 2015). Applications are invited for a PhD Studentship entitled 'The design and structure of Journalism Safety Trends (JSTs) data sets as indicators of the threats to the practice of free journalism in hostile environments'.

The area of research is tangential to that investigating political violence/threat which has recently become topical in the economics and political science literature. The constraints of operating in hostile environments may apply at national and regional levels, are likely to be influenced by economic, political, cultural and social factors, and are potentially indicators of the broader status of media freedom, democracy and development in nations.

This PhD studentship is a collaborative between the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization UNESCO (Paris) the Centre for Freedom of the Media (CFOM) based at the University of Sheffield.

The project focuses on the design and structure of Journalism Safety Trends data sets (JSTs), which identify hostile environments inimical to free journalism at the national and regional level. It is based on the recognition that there is a need to investigate the extent to which the safety of journalists is an indicator of other democratic and development trends in a society. Its specific focus will be to investigate whether there are any correlations between trends in the safety of journalists and indicators related to freedom of expression, media freedom, democracy, good governance and national and regional fragility. The successful student will undertake a three-month secondment at UNESCO (Paris) during the first year of the PhD.

Supervisors

Principal supervisor: Professor Jackie Harrison, Chair, Centre for Freedom of the Media (CFOM)

Co-supervisor: Professor Karl Taylor, Department of Economics
UNESCO supervisor: Dr Ming Kuok Lim and the Journalists’ Safety Indicators, Coordinator, Division for Freedom of Expression and Media Development, Communication and Information Sector, UNESCO, Paris

Enquiries

Interested candidates should in the first instance contact Professor Jackie Harrison (email j.harrison@sheffield.ac.uk) and Professor Karl Taylor (email k.b.taylor@sheffield.ac.uk).

Entry requirements and eligibility criteria

White Rose DTC ESRC awards are only available to nationals from the UK and EU and are not open to applicants who are liable to pay academic fees at the international fee rate.

Applicants must hold at least a UK upper second class honours degree or equivalent in an appropriate subject area.

Desirable for applicants to have undertaken an MA/MSc in an appropriate subject area.

Applicants should have taken a statistics module at undergraduate (or postgraduate) level and be familiar with regression analysis.

The research requires skills in advanced quantitative social science methods and statistical methods, and will also incorporate qualitative analysis.

The successful candidate would need to live in Paris for three months of the studentship.

Funding

UK applicants will be eligible for a full award (paying fees and maintenance at standard Research Council rates. The stipend rate for 2015-16 will be £14,057.

EU applicants are normally eligible for a fees-only award, unless they have been resident in the UK for three years immediately preceding the date of the award.

The studentship will commence in September/October 2015.

How to apply

Complete a postgraduate online application form for admission as a postgraduate student at www.sheffield.ac.uk/postgraduate/research/apply.
In part 2 (Course Applications) of the application form please select 'add a new research course' and then:

- Qualification applying for: Standard PhD
- How you want to study: Full Time
- Department: Journalism Studies
- Research topic: ESRC White Rose DTC Collaborative Studentship
- Preferred supervisor: Professor Jackie Harrison
- Start: September/October 2015
- Do you know how you want to fund your studies? Yes
- Funding source: Scholarship or studentship
- Details of funding source: ESRC White Rose DTC Network Studentship
- Stage of funding: I am applying for funding

Applications should include the following documents:

- Supporting statement (max. 3 pages) stating that you are applying for this project and outlining your reasons for doing so
- CV including academic record (max. 3 pages)
- Academic transcripts to date
- Two references
- English Language certificate (if English is not your first language)

**Deadline: 30 June 2015 (23:59 UK time)**