

## POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH (PhD) OPPORTUNITIES

### IN SOCIAL STATISTICS AND DEMOGRAPHY

#### WHAT IS DEMOGRAPHY?

Demography is the scientific study of human populations. The size and the structure of populations are constantly changing in response to shifting fertility, mortality and migration trends. Demographic analyses provide insights into how populations evolve over time and space, at the national, regional, state and local levels. Demography extends beyond traditional approaches to analysing vital statistics and includes the systematic examination of interactions between population and other social phenomena, addressing critical issues such as poverty, health, environment, economy and technology. An understanding of demographic processes is vital in the construction of policy in contemporary societies. Examples of research questions of interest to demographers include:

- What is the impact of urbanisation on people and the planet?
- How can we stop mothers dying while giving birth?
- How can we reduce uncertainty in population projections?
- What can be done to tackle the HIV/AIDS epidemic?
- Why does the UK have one of the highest teenage pregnancy rates in Europe?
- What are the consequences of aging for individuals and societies?

#### WHAT IS SOCIAL STATISTICS?

Life is full of uncertainty. Decision-making, whether in the context of a commercial venture, medical practice or forming social policy, is inherently risky. To reduce the risk of making the wrong decision, we need information and hard evidence. It is statisticians who provide the data and analysis on which decisions can be made.

Social statisticians develop analytical tools to study human populations and behaviour. Our researchers are internationally recognised for their expertise in the application of cutting-edge quantitative analysis, sampling and survey methods, and policy and programme evaluations. Our work has global impact, aiding our local, national and international partners in the development of policy worldwide.

#### WHAT WILL I LEARN?

Our degrees in Social Statistics and Demography help students to develop a comprehensive understanding of social issues in societies all over the world. We focus on the development of both qualitative and quantitative research skills – for which Southampton has a world-renowned reputation. In particular, we have links with the United Nations UNAIDS (the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS), the World Health Organisation (WHO), World Bank and the UK Office of National Statistics (ONS).

Our programmes will help you to understand the issues shaping local, national and global policy in the twenty first century. One of the distinctive features of our degree programmes is the practical focus – you will learn work-based skills that will prepare you for a range of professional careers.

## WHY SOUTHAMPTON?

The University of Southampton is a world leader in postgraduate training, ranked in the top 1% of universities in the world. It is home to one of 21 Doctoral Training Centres (DTC) accredited by the UK Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC). The University currently directs the ESRC Census Programme and is host to three ESRC Centres of Research Excellence, including the National Centre for Research Methods (NCRM), the Centre for Population Change (CPC) and the Third Sector Research Centre (TSRC). Coupled with the University's reputation for excellence in research methods and advanced methodological techniques, the University of Southampton offers a unique academic environment for postgraduate training within the social sciences.

## SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Every year we put forward candidates for PhD scholarships, with funding from the UK Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC).

For the year starting October 2015, we expect to that up to 6 ESRC-DTC (Doctoral Training Centre) studentships will be made available, and a number of these will be available as part of a +3 programme. They are available for students who have or are expecting to complete an approved Masters programme with at least a good merit (an average mark of 65%) or other equivalent, and are looking to undertake a 3 year PhD. These scholarships pay £13,863 per year tax free (2014-2015 rates), include additional funds for Research Training and Overseas Fieldwork, plus the chance to apply for an extra £3,000 per year for training in advanced quantitative methods. Your fees are also covered.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

### Programme information

For further information about our programmes please click on the following links:

For more information about the Department of Social Statistics and Demography, please visit us at <http://www.southampton.ac.uk/demography>.

For more details about our ESRC-DTC and our associated pathways, please visit us at <http://www.southampton.ac.uk/esrcdtc>.

### Research degrees

[European PhD in Socio-economic and Statistical Studies](#)  
[MPhil/PhD by Research in Social Statistics and Demography](#)

### Applying

Applications can be made online:

<http://www.soton.ac.uk/postgraduate/pgstudy/howdoiapplypg.html>

Applications are welcome all year round. However, please note that for students wishing to be considered ESRC-DTC+3 studentships, the deadline for applications is **13 February 2015**. Students wishing to apply for the +3 studentships will also need to complete an additional form, which can be accessed [here](#).

### Contacts

For general, programme- or funding-related questions, please contact:

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