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Advice for Doctoral Research Enquirers
School of Social Policy
University of Birmingham

Youth Homelessness in Birmingham – Collaborative PhD Opportunity with St Basils
– Supervisor Professor David Mullins

With thanks for being in contact about this doctoral research opportunity in the School of Social Policy at the University of Birmingham. When assessing applications we look at previous qualifications and professional background, a short proposal and two references. Here is some **general guidance on Making and Application** and applying for **ESRC DTC Funding at the University of Birmingham. Candidates for this PhD opportunity need to submit both applications by 4.00 p.m. on January 15th**. For this opportunity you should also refer to the attached further particulars - **Youth Homelessness in Birmingham – Collaborative PhD Opportunity with St Basils**.

General Guidance

Making an Application

There is some general information available on-line about making an application to take a PhD: <http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/courses/postgraduate/apply-pg/index.aspx> (e.g. confirmation of language requirements, qualifications, fees).

If you wish to apply to study a PhD with us, then please visit:

► <https://pga.bham.ac.uk/pages/COS019.htm> for Institute of Applied Social Studies Doctoral Programmes. Or
► <https://pga.bham.ac.uk/pages/COS027.htm> for Health Service Management Doctoral Programmes.

Developing a Proposal

The proposal should provide

- a rationale for the intended study (referencing some key literature and if applicable including practitioner knowledge/experience)
- research questions
- suggested design and methods
- and potential contribution of the research to knowledge, theory, policy and / or practice.

Doctoral Research Training

Note that for applicants without an MA Social Research or equivalent, doctoral research at the University of Birmingham includes research training (one module in Research Design and two modules in Social Research Methods) which support the further development of a proposal in the early stages of a doctoral degree.

After you have applied

We look to see whether we are able to consider offering you a place for doctoral research study, with two doctoral research supervisors based at the University of Birmingham. If we are able to consider an application further and have identified potential supervisors we arrange a short interview (in person or by Skype).

Advice for international applicants

Further information is available on the University website:

► <http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/International/students/index.aspx>

This includes country specific information (including local representatives of the University around the world), fees and funding advice, and student life in the UK.

Advice for applicants considering MA Social Research + PhD

The MA Social Research pathways offered at the University of Birmingham provide research education and training which provides a strong basis for PhD study in the social sciences. If you are applying for an MA Social Research on any of our three pathways (Social Policy, Social Work, or Health and Wellbeing) and hope to continue onto PhD do arrange to speak with me at an early stage (i.e. when you apply for MA) about your possible research interests.

Note if you are also applying to be considered for '1 +3' (MA +PhD) funding from the ESRC DTC you should discuss your proposed PhD research with me (and then potential PhD supervisors). **To be considered for 1 (MA) +3 (PhD) funding you need to apply for the appropriate Pathway Social Research MA by the time you submit your application to the ESRC DTC: (Social Policy, Social Work, or Health and Social Wellbeing MA Social Research Programmes).**

Information on ESRC DTC Funding at the University of Birmingham

The ESRC DTC competition at the University of Birmingham opens on 25th October 2013 and closes at 4pm on the 15th January 2014. Awards are determined in February 2014. You will need to make an additional application to the ESRC DTC to be considered.

► www.birmingham.ac.uk/esrc

► ... the above link includes candidate guidance

<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/Documents/students/ESRC-2013-candidate-guidance.pdf>

I hope this information is helpful, and let me know if you have any further questions.

Best wishes

Harriet

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www.birmingham.ac.uk/harriet-clarke

Further Particulars - Youth Homelessness in Birmingham – Collaborative PhD Opportunity with St Basils – Supervisor Professor David Mullins

Thank you for your interest in this exciting Collaborative PhD opportunity working with St Basils (Find a PhD advert attached). I have had a number of requests for clarification and am issuing this further particulars sheet to accompany the General Guidance from Dr Harriet Clarke, Director of Doctoral Research and deal with the main questions you have raised.

To be considered for the ESRC award of £13,726 plus full fees¹ that we are hoping to secure for this PhD you will need to submit both an **Application to study at University of Birmingham** and an **ESRC Doctoral Training Centre (DTC) Funding Application Form** by 4.00p.m. on January 15th 2014. Awards are available to **home and EU students only**. Funding is available for both 1+3 (MA and PhD) and 3 (PhD) only basis; but the successful candidate will be expected to engage with St Basils from October 2014 alongside research training. A decision on DTC/ESRC funding will be made by 31 March 2014.

Candidates should use the **Research Proposal (max 800 words)** section on the DTC Application Form to outline your personal PhD proposal and the **Supporting Statement (max 1000 words)** to elaborate on your motivation for undertaking a Collaborative PhD with St Basils on youth homelessness in Birmingham.

You can find out more about St Basils and the campaign to End Youth Homelessness from <http://www.stbasils.org.uk/aboutus/End+Youth+Homelessness+Alliance> and St Basils have agreed to provide the attached report on the Youth Hub data to candidates to inform your proposals. **You should not, however, contact St Basils direct at this stage for further information.** I am unable to provide guidance on further reading to candidates, but you will need to show in your application an awareness of the literature on causes of and responses to youth homelessness in England and other developed societies.

While the collaborative setting for this PhD is a major attraction, you should also compose your Research Proposal to include theoretical and methodological considerations and demonstrate an awareness of the social science research methods literature. You should also signal understanding of the practical context of a specialist youth homelessness organisation working in partnership with statutory and voluntary sector partners to 'end youth homelessness'. When assessing applications the DTC will have particular regard to:

Person: Your experience and qualifications and commitment to undertaking postgraduate research

Preparation: A minimum of 2.1 first degree in a relevant Social Science for 1+3 entry. Research training at Masters level for 3 year PhD. You will be required to submit results transcripts or projected results information for current final year undergraduates with your UOB Application.

¹ Further remuneration may be available for collaborative work with St Basils linked to the PhD and research partnership.

Proposal: A sound proposal with theoretical and empirical clarity and capable of sustaining a three year PhD. In this case the ability to link with and support use of data and research to inform practice in St Basils will also be a relevant consideration.

Place: A clear base in Social Policy and Homelessness Research with qualified Supervision from Professor David Mullins in the Housing and Communities Research Group.

There may be opportunities for shortlisted candidates to meet St Basils Chief Executive, Jean Templeton between January 15th and February 25th to assist with selection and build common understanding.

I hope that this clarifies all of the queries raised with me to date

Finally, On the DTC application you should specify Social Policy in the PhD Programme Title, ESRC Subject Area and Discipline Pathways and name Professor David Mullins as proposed supervisor.

Yours Sincerely

David mullins

David Mullins

d.w.mullins@bham.ac.uk

Professor of Housing Policy

Housing and Communities Research Group

<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/activity/social-policy/welfare-futures/housing/index.aspx>

School of Social Policy

Institution University of Birmingham
Dept/School/Faculty:
School of Social Policy, Housing and Communities Research Group
PhD Supervisor
Prof David Mullins
Co-Supervisor
Dr M Bennett or Dr R Joseph or Dr H Buckingham
Application Deadline:
Applications accepted all year round
Funding Availability: Collaborative PhD Opportunity. Awaiting Funding Decision



COLLABORATIVE PHD OPPORTUNITY

Youth Homelessness in Birmingham

Birmingham has become the first city to sign up to a collective approach to 'end youth homelessness'. The University of Birmingham is working with a consortium of agencies in the City towards this end.

<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/social-policy/departments/applied-social-studies/news-and-events/2013/10/world-homelessness-day.aspx>.

A key element of this strategy is the Youth Homelessness Hub managed by St Basils <http://www.stbasils.org.uk/aboutus/End+Youth+Homelessness+Alliance> a registered charity and housing association working with young people aged 16-25 who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. The Hub is a single gateway to integrated housing and support services to address youth homelessness and enable young people to become economically active. The hub aims to provide a seamless service and to minimise duplication, make best use of limited resources, and ensure that those with the highest needs are accessing the services they need. It seeks to improve prevention work, so young people can be supported to return home and be sustained within their family, if this is safe and appropriate.

In the first two years of operation the Hub 4,500 young people each year presented as homeless or at risk and were assisted through partnership working with a range of organisations including the City Council. 90% of young people were prevented from being homeless; 881 young people provided with a housing related support package; 90% of young people expressing satisfaction with the service. St Basils is now contracted to run the Hub for a further three years, making an ideal environment for evidence based and high impact social research.

This PhD will be based in the Housing and Communities Research Group in the School of Social Policy <http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/activity/social-policy/welfare-futures/housing/index.aspx>. It will be part of our programme of work with St Basils to research and develop this unique source of data on the experience of youth homelessness and the effectiveness of the unique inter-agency partnership. The overall objective is to help inform prevention and early intervention work. It will do this by working with St Basils

- to develop the Hub as a strategic information resource for the City and the wider exploitation of this unique data set to inform policy and research on youth homelessness and its prevention nationally and internationally.
- To construct an evidence base on the social impact of inter-organisational service delivery partnership to commission and deliver the full range of support and accommodation services required to end youth homelessness.

This is a unique opportunity for a student with a strong interest in social justice and young people to undertake applied research with a significant social impact. Some prior experience of work on homelessness may be an advantage but is not essential. The student will demonstrate qualitative and quantitative social research skills and will receive research training through the Doctoral Training Centre. They will work closely with St Basils,