ECRC SOUTH EAST NETWORK FOR SOCIAL SCIENCES (SENSS) / CANDIDATE BRIEFING

Dr Joseph Tzanopoulos
SeNSS Academic Lead
Welcoming you today are:

Dr Joseph Tzanopoulos – SeNSS Academic Lead for Kent

Felicity Clifford – SeNSS Administrative Lead for Kent
ESRC SeNSS Funding

• The Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) currently provides funding for around 500 new postgraduate students each year through a network of 14 Doctoral Training Partnerships (DTPs).

• Kent is part of the South-East Network for Social Sciences (SeNSS) ESRC DTP with East Anglia, Essex, Reading, Surrey, Sussex, Goldsmiths, Royal Holloway, City and Roehampton.
2022 Studentships

Kent offers SeNSS funded studentships in 9 disciplines (Pathways):

- Business and Management Studies
- Linguistics
- Politics and International Relations
- Psychology
- Science, Technology and Sustainability Studies
- Social Anthropology
- Social Work and Social Policy
- Socio-Legal Studies
- Sociology
# Pathway Leads

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<tr>
<th>PATHWAY</th>
<th>PATHWAY LEAD</th>
<th>EMAIL</th>
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<tbody>
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What does SeNSS offer?

- Innovative and challenging world-class doctoral training in a dynamic, inter-disciplinary research environment.
- Subject-specific, generic, and advanced training in elite training facilities, tailored to your individual needs.
- Access to all 10 institutions in the DTP.
- An existing network of over 200 external organisations, offering collaboration and work placement opportunities (e.g. Sage, Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology).
- Opportunities for overseas visits and fieldwork, attending and presenting at annual conferences and events, and academic publishing.
- Virtual Learning Environment (VLE).
**What does SeNSS funding provide?**

- The grant covers the cost of a studentship based on Home fees and maintenance (£15,609 in 2021/22, 2022 rates to be announced).

- Successful applicants can draw on a Research Training Support Grant (RTSG) – notional value £750 pa.

- Applicants can apply for additional funds to cover Difficult Language Training and Overseas Fieldwork (this must be included in your original SeNSS application).

- You will be invited to a new SeNSS student induction and the annual summer conference.

- Invites to student-led events and discipline-specific activities.
Programme structures and study modes

• 1+3 Studentship
  one-year Master’s degree and a three-year PhD
  (all disciplines) (Kent Master’s programmes are ESRC compliant)

• +3 Studentship
  three-year PhD (all disciplines)
  (must have met ESRC’s core Master’s training requirements)

• Full-time or Part-time

• If you have already begun your PhD
  • You can apply for a studentship even if you have already begun your PhD, provided that, at the start of your award in October 2022, you have at least 50% of your period of study remaining (excluding your ‘writing up’ period); AND your structure of study is either a +3 studentship or a +4 studentship.

• You can do your Master’s at a different institution
  • You must apply to the institution where you want to do your PhD
Residential criteria

- Home and international students are now eligible for UKRI / SeNSS funded studentships.
- All students will receive a full award - including a stipend and fees at the home level (Kent will waive the fee difference between Home and International).

To be classed as a home student candidates must meet the following criteria:

✓ Be a UK National (meeting residency requirements), or
✓ Have settled status, or
✓ Have pre-settled status (meeting residency requirements), or
✓ Have indefinite leave to remain or enter

If a candidate does not meet the criteria above, they would be classed as an International student. Further guidance on residential eligibility is provided in Annex B of the UKRI Training Grant Guidance.
Completing your application

• Discuss your research proposal with your supervisors.

• Read the SeNSS application guidance notes in HEIApply so you know what to expect.

• Application has 2 stages: application form, supervisor statement. These must be completed in sequence: the application form task must be complete before you can request the supervisor statement.

• The two supervisors are auto-emailed to request their statements.

• Most importantly – focus on developing a strong research proposal.
English language requirements for postgraduate study at Kent

You must meet our minimum English language entry requirements to prove your written and spoken English is at the required level for postgraduate study.

Visit our dedicated requirements page to check your qualifications:

www.kent.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/apply/english-language-requirements
SeNSS Application Process

1. Identify potential supervisor(s) and start the Kent (KentVision) and SeNSS (HEIApply) applications process.

2. Discuss your research proposal with the Pathway Lead (see next slide) and your Prospective Supervisors (ASAP).

3. Start working on both your applications as soon as possible.

4. Submit your Kent and SeNSS application by midnight on Sunday 2 January 2022.

   It is highly recommended to complete your application before the Christmas period to ensure your supervisor is available and has time to complete their statement before the University closes on 21st December 2021.
SeNSS Application Process

- Applicants will be shortlisted for interview based on their SeNSS application.
- N.B. all applicants must have a supporting Kent application.
- Further shortlisting will take place after interview based on the strength of application, proposal and interview.
- Kent will nominate 3 candidates per pathway to the final SeNSS competition stage.
- Final shortlisted candidates will have the opportunity to amend or update their SeNSS application if advised.
Assessment Criteria

The following three categories of criteria will be used to assess applications across all pathways and degree formats.

- Research proposal’s quality and feasibility (40%)
- Applicant’s preparedness (40%)
- Research environment quality, including supervisory expertise (20%)
Research Proposal

Research Proposal Title
  ➢ maximum 80 characters

Research Proposal Abstract
  ➢ maximum 3,800 characters

Research Proposal
  ➢ maximum 10,000 characters

Personal Statement
Key dates

Submit SeNSS proposal & Apply for a PhD Place at Kent
By 23:59 – Sunday 2 January 2022

Kent to shortlist candidates and invite to interview
Tuesday 4 January – Wednesday 26 January 2022

Candidates contacted with outcome of initial interview and shortlisting stage
Thursday 27 January – Friday 28 January 2022

It is highly recommended to complete your application before the Christmas period to ensure your supervisors are available and have time to complete their statements.

HEIApply system reopens for shortlisted candidates
Saturday 5 February – Wednesday 9 February 2022

Kent to submit final candidates to SeNSS for final stage of competition
Monday 14 February 2022

Institutional Pathway Stage and SeNSS Management Board stage of competition
Thursday 17 February – Wednesday 6 April 2022

Candidates will be informed of final competition outcome
Friday 19 April 2022
# Key Contacts

- Dr Joseph Tzanopoulos - SeNSS Academic Lead at Kent  
  [j.tzanopoulos@kent.ac.uk](mailto:j.tzanopoulos@kent.ac.uk)
- Felicity Clifford – Graduate and Research College Officer and SeNSS Administrative Lead at Kent  
  [f.clifford-254@kent.ac.uk](mailto:f.clifford-254@kent.ac.uk)

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Designing a Good Research Proposal

This workshop is aimed at students who are putting together a research proposal for a PhD project. We will consider what a good proposal needs, examine some examples of successful proposals, and consider some tips and tricks from successful applicants.

03 November
14:00 – 16:00

Book your place:
Current Kent Postgraduate Student: https://grctraining.targetconnect.net/unauth
SeNSS Webinars

SeNSS will be holding three virtual webinars to support applicants in putting together their SeNSS applications. In order to register for these webinars, applicants should click on the following links (noting registration is essential in order to attend):

- **12.00 – 1400: Wed 10 November** – Ask SeNSS Information Webinar – Applying for a SeNSS Studentship
  
  [https://essex-university.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_z25PWzAASx6j4iRFdy9MYw](https://essex-university.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_z25PWzAASx6j4iRFdy9MYw)

- **19:00 – 21:00: Tuesday 23 November** – Ask SeNSS Information webinar – Applying for a SeNSS Studentship
  
  [https://essex-university.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_GVUBHUMSSVq8bSiAMgACFw](https://essex-university.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_GVUBHUMSSVq8bSiAMgACFw)

- **12:00 – 13.00: Saturday 4 December** – Ask SeNSS Q&A Session – Applying for a SeNSS Studentship
  
  [https://essex-university.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_LHblwmvsTYmk3D5AwQajjQ](https://essex-university.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_LHblwmvsTYmk3D5AwQajjQ)

All webinars will be recorded and will be made available shortly after they've been held on the [SeNSS website](https://www.essex.ac.uk/seNSS)
Any questions?
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