SEDarc
DoGS and DDOGS
BRIEFING

Prof Joseph Tzanopoulos
SEDrarc Academic Lead
Welcoming you today are:

Felicity Clifford – SEDarc Administrative Lead for Kent

Prof Joseph Tzanopoulos – SEDarc Academic Lead for Kent
ESRC SEDarc Funding

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

• Kent is part of the The South East Doctoral Training Arc (SEDarc) ESRC DTP with Royal Holloway, Reading, Surrey, Sussex, and Kingston.

• PhDs embedded in five interdisciplinary, thematic challenges
• Strong focus on digital, data & quantitative skills training for all
• Strong focus on employability (placements, ‘Research in Practice’ programme)
• Positive action to increase diversity

Kent webpage for SEDarc: https://www.kent.ac.uk/graduate-researcher-college/doctoral-training-partnerships/sedarc
## Eligible Disciplines / Schools

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Discipline</th>
<th>School</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anthropology &amp; Development Studies</td>
<td>School of Anthropology and Conservation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Architecture, Built Env &amp; planning</td>
<td>School of Architecture and Planning – with Social Science link</td>
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<tr>
<td>Business &amp; Management</td>
<td>Kent Business School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health &amp; Social Care</td>
<td>School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cyber Security</td>
<td>School of Computing – with a Social Science link</td>
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<tr>
<td>Geography &amp; Environmental Studies</td>
<td>School of Anthropology and Conservation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Law &amp; Criminology</td>
<td>Kent Law School and School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>Politics &amp; International Relations</td>
<td>School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>School of Psychology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Work &amp; Social Policy</td>
<td>School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sociology</td>
<td>School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research</td>
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Training Programme – what's on offer?

- Standard PhD - 3.5 years or,
- 1 year Masters + 3.5 year PhD
  - The applicant must not have a previous social science Masters
  - Maximum of 4 scholarships awarded across consortium
- Individual research project circa 2.75 years
- 200 hours per year of digital, data skills, and advanced methods training • 3-month placements for all (flexible delivery)
- New thesis format to assess full range of competencies.

Funding:
- Doctoral Stipend (equivalent to the Research Councils UK National Minimum Doctoral Stipend, to be announced –previous 2023/24 rate is £18,622.)
- Tuition fees
- Research Training Support Grant
## Eligible Masters Programmes at Kent

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Masters</th>
<th>Discipline</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MA International Conflict Analysis</td>
<td>Politics &amp; International Relations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Methods of Social Research</td>
<td>Social Policy &amp; Sociology</td>
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<tr>
<td>MSc Business Analytics</td>
<td>Business &amp; Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>MSc Psychology (open subdiscipline option)</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
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<tr>
<td>MSc Ethnobotany</td>
<td>Anthropology</td>
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<tr>
<td>MSc in Conservation Science and Management</td>
<td>Conservation</td>
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<tr>
<td>MSc Marketing</td>
<td>Business &amp; Management</td>
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### PhD Themes

- PhDs must be pitched within one of five social science challenges

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Exemplary challenges</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Living Sustainably</td>
<td>Climate change; Net Zero, green &amp; circular economies; biodiversity &amp; conservation; ecosystem services; energy, food &amp; resource security; environmental risks, resilience &amp; justice; environmental understanding, education &amp; behaviour change; group norms; managing population movements linked to environmental change; conservation across age and cultures.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Healthy Thriving Communities</td>
<td>Health &amp; social care; wellbeing; health inequalities; public policy, services &amp; goods; poverty; equality, diversity &amp; inclusion; place, identity &amp; citizenship; voluntarism; transport &amp; mobility; neighbourhood dynamics; housing &amp; homelessness; families, childhood &amp; youth; ageing; schools, education trajectories, &amp; effective interventions; intergroup interactions; migration.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inclusive Economic Growth</td>
<td>Mechanisms, regulatory frameworks &amp; policies that promote inclusive growth; macro-economic (in)stability; taxation &amp; fiscal policies; global, regional, place-based &amp; demographic inequalities; education &amp; skills; lifelong learning; labour market outcomes; fair work &amp; pay gaps; sustainability &amp; legitimacy of growth strategies; economic decision making.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secure, Effective, &amp; Trusted Institutions</td>
<td>Shifting geopolitical orders &amp; the role of institutions; future international trade frameworks; operation, effect &amp; legitimacy of democratic institutions; effective legal frameworks &amp; systems for ensuring justice; human rights; forced displacement; modern slavery; peacebuilding &amp; conflict resolution; diversifying leadership.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transformative Technologies for Society</td>
<td>Societal shaping &amp; outcomes of AI, robotics &amp; VR / immersive media; socio-economic aspects of transformative technologies, including face recognition, computer vision &amp; natural language processing; digital technologies in education, (mental) health, and justice; societal engagements with cybersecurity; fintech &amp; livelihood strategies; technological change &amp; future of work; digital divides and digital inclusion.</td>
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</table>
The PhD thesis is the product that demonstrates competencies acquired from the general & specialist skills training.

The PhD thesis must include:

(a) A section on project management
(b) A data management plan
(c) A chapter on knowledge exchange, perhaps reflecting learning from the placement (e.g. policy report, industry solution, accessible science communication)
(d) Reflections in appropriate chapters as to how the training journey influenced the research
(e) Archiving of study materials, data, and reproducible analysis code (as appropriate) on the Open Science Framework.
The Placement

• The recent ESRC ‘Review of the PhD’ (2021) revealed that it is important for students to develop generic, transferable employability skills in addition to core research skills.

• ESRC expectation is that all students will do a placement and they now provide 3 months of PhD funding + up to £1000 in travel expenses to support this. Student who do not undertake a placement will not get this additional funding.

• Total duration of the placements is 3 months (if full-time), and can be spread out to a longer duration for part-time and flexible arrangements.

• Placements partners can be from public, private, or academic sectors. Students are encouraged to source their own placement so that it best serves their career goals.

• Students’ application will need to indicate their potential partners/preferences.
It is expected that PGR students graduating from SEDarc universities must be able to demonstrate, through relevant training, practical experience and/or submission of their thesis, that they possess the following knowledge, skills and attributes:

● Conceptual skills
  ○ These learning outcomes can be achieved and/or demonstrated in a variety of ways, including professional experience, employment, undergraduate education, master's education

● General research skills
  ○ Delivered across the DTP, at induction event and summer school

● Specialist skills
  ○ Bespoke for individual research needs

● Research in practice skills (including placement)
Studentship Allocation

• SEDarc has ~39 studentships per year.

• Each institution can nominate up to 18 applications for consideration.

• Only nominated applicants can access the SEDarc portal and will be invited to do so.

• Students must not have already started a PhD.

• ESRC places a cap on international students of 30% and will pay home rates only; institutions will meet the difference.
Studentship Evaluation

Evaluation criteria will be based on four equally weighted criteria:

• **Fit to themes (33%)** - this will be based on how well your research project is fit around one of the five interdisciplinary SEDarc themes.

• **Project quality and feasibility (33%)** - this will be based on your outline of your proposed research project, your reasons for pursuing it, and its wider significance. SEDarc assessors will be looking for evidence of the following: your ability to design and conduct a research project; a coherent and well-thought-out research plan; a strong awareness of the place of the literature in your field; and the potential impact of your research on professional practice. Reference will be made to your personal statement, as contained in your application, as well as your supervisors’ supporting statement.

• **Student quality (33%)** - this will be based on your description of how your previous experience (this includes life experience as well as academic and/or professional experience) has prepared you for postgraduate study and research. Reference will be made to your personal statement, as contained in your application, as well as your supervisor’s supporting statement.

• **Research Environment (remaining 1%)** – tick box criterion.
Application process

Discuss your research proposal with a supervisor

Attend a Designing a good research proposal workshop

Discuss placement ideas and locations and possible collaborations

You do not need a formal agreement from placement partners before applying

Download the Kent/SEDarc application form

Your primary supervisor will need to provide a supporting statement for you to add to your application form

Complete application with the support of a supervisor

Apply for a PhD and upload application form to KentVision (application portal)

Upload your application using the following document types: .doc, docx, or .pdf and name the document: SEDARC 2024 APPLICATION.

Download application form

Apply to Kent and upload your application form by 7th January 2024, 23:59 GMT
Key Dates

- **7th January 2024**: Apply to Kent using the Kent/SEDarc application form
- **8th – 26th January 2024**: Shortlisted candidates invited to interview at Kent
- **7th February 2024**: Kent Selection Panel meet to nominate final 18 candidates
- **19th February 2024**: Final 18 selected candidates submit their SEDarc application
- **25th March 2024**: SEDarc Management Board meet to confirm awarded candidates
- **27th March 2024**: SEDarc sends out formal offers to 39 awarded candidates
Applicants should ask their primary supervisors for a supporting statement to attach to their Kent SEDarc application before the 7th January 2024.

**Supervisors will be asked:**

- Please comment (in a maximum of 250 words) on how you, as the supervisory team, will work together to support the applicant. In doing so, please reflect on existing or past supervision of other doctoral researchers as a supervisory team; and, any other complementarities you consider to be your strengths as a supervisory team.

- Please comment (in a maximum of 250 words) on the quality and feasibility of your applicant’s research proposal. In doing so, please reflect on: the proposal’s broader significance in the discipline(s); the positioning of the proposal in the relevant literature; the research plan; and, the potential impact on professional practice. If your applicant's research project plans (a) to use advanced quantitative methods, (b) to use very large datasets and/or big data methods, or (c) involves interdisciplinary collaboration with researchers outside of the social sciences then please highlight and explain this, as your project may qualify for funding under an ESRC strategic steer.
Residential criteria

Open to both UK residents and international (this includes EU nationals) candidates.

To be classed as a “Home” student, applications must meet these UK residential conditions:
• Be a UK National (meeting UKRI residency requirements), or
• Have settled status, or
• Have pre-settled status (meeting residency requirement) or
• Have indefinite leave to remain or enter

If applying as an overseas student (this includes EU nationals), Kent will waive the difference between the Home and Oversea fees. Please be aware that there is a 30% cap on international studentships. This will be applied at the SEDarc selection stage.

UKRI residency requirements:
Further guidance on residential eligibility is provided in Annex B of the UKRI Training Grant Guidance.
30 November 13:00 – 15:00
Designing a good research proposal

• UG or external candidates can book their place here: https://forms.gle/MDToeg52xfVzvCYY9

• Current Kent postgraduate student - https://grctraining.targetconnect.net/unauth
Any questions?