



**SeNSS ESRC-FUNDED COLLABORATIVE STUDENTSHIP OPPORTUNITY:
AGEING, AUTOMATIZATION AND THE FUTURE OF SKILLS IN THE
LABOUR MARKET**

Primary supervisor: Professor Arnaud Chevalier

Institution: Department of Economics, Royal Holloway, University of London

SeNSS Pathway: Economics

Collaborative partner: Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), in Paris

Degree structure: a three-year PhD programme

Research project

Most OECD countries are experiencing an ageing of their population. This impacts on their labour force as large cohorts of retiring workers are being replaced by smaller cohorts of younger workers. To maintain economic growth, the productivity of workers needs to increase, or additional workers need to be attracted. Increased productivity relies on increased capital, partially in the form of robots, and increased human capital; i.e. workers need to acquire new skills. Increasing the working population could be done by attracting individuals not currently in the labour force, by retaining older workers, or through migration. The latter option is politically sensitive and difficult to implement on a scale large enough to compensate for the differences in cohort sizes; the baby boomers that are currently retiring were the largest cohorts ever to be born in OECD countries.

This project specifically focuses on how the interaction of an ageing population and increased automation alters the supply and demand of skills in the working age population. The studentship offers a unique opportunity to join a research-collaboration between the department and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in Paris. The scholarship offers the exiting prospects of working at the frontier of academic research and policy recommendations.

In the first year, the successful candidate will join the thriving doctoral training program offered by the department to supplement their economics and econometrics skills, as well as training courses provided by the SENSS. Throughout the 3 years, the

PhD candidate will be jointly supervised by experts in labour and public economics at the RHUL and at the OECD.

If you are looking for opportunities to influence the debate on the role of robots in an ageing workforce, this is your chance.

The Department of Economics, Royal Holloway, University of London, was ranked in the top 10 at the 2014 Research Excellence Framework.

Training opportunities

In addition to the PhD courses offered by the Economics department, further training on specific research methods and software tailored to student's needs can be provided in later years. In addition, generic research skills training is provided at College level.

Applicants: essential and/or desirable attributes/skills

As this studentship may only be taken as a +3 year award (a three-year PhD), you must hold a Masters degree, which must be compliant with the SeNSS Learning Outcomes, and the ESRC Postgraduate Training and Development Guidelines. For further information, see the SeNSS Collaborative Studentship Application Guidance Notes, available at: The Guidance Notes are available at the bottom of the following webpage: [Applying for a SeNSS collaborative studentship](#)

Studentship award details:

- This studentship may only be taken as +3 year award (a three-year PhD)
- It may be taken full-time or part-time

Residential eligibility

Home, EU and international students are eligible for a **full award** (subject to the ESRC cap). A full award comprises your university fees, and provides you with a stipend of £16,553 per year (this includes £2,000 London weighting). You will also be able to apply for small amounts of additional funding via the SeNSS Research Training Support Grant.

How to apply for this studentship

In order to be considered for this SeNSS studentship, you must first apply for a place to study at Royal Holloway, University of London, noting that you are applying for the collaborative studentship. Please go to [Royal Holloway ESRC scholarships](#) for information on how to make your application.

You will then need to make a separate application to SeNSS for this collaborative studentship. Please read the SeNSS Collaborative Studentship Application Guidance Notes before completing our online application form. The Guidance Notes are available at the bottom of the following webpage: [Applying for a SeNSS collaborative studentship](#)

Deadline:

The deadline applying to Royal Holloway, University of London for a place is **23:59 GMT on 21 January 2018**. No extensions to this deadline will be permitted.

For further enquiries:

For enquiries related to the studentship topic, please email Professor Arnaud Chevalier (Arnaud.chevalier@rhul.ac.uk)

For enquiries related to your eligibility for this studentship, and the application process, please email esrcdtp@rhul.ac.uk

About SeNSS

The South East Network for Social Sciences (SeNSS) is a consortium formed of 10 leading UK universities, all of which are engaged in cutting-edge social science research and training. The SeNSS consortium members are:

- City, University of London
- University of East Anglia
- University of Essex (the co-ordinating institution)
- Goldsmiths, University of London
- University of Kent
- University of Reading
- University of Roehampton, London
- Royal Holloway, University of London
- University of Surrey
- University of Sussex

SeNSS offers a world-class inter-disciplinary PhD research and training environment. It is committed to supporting its internationally recognised researchers and to producing the next generation of talented social scientists. SeNSS has been accredited as a prestigious Doctoral Training Partnership (DTP) by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), the national body which funds research and training in economic and social issues.

We pride ourselves on our rigorous doctoral training programme, making the most of our members' diverse specialisms and offering our students a wide array of subject-specific as well as advanced training opportunities. SeNSS offers high-calibre supervision, driven by our members' emphasis on formal training and research culture.

For further information about SeNSS, please visit [the SeNSS website](#)