PhD studentship offered jointly by the ESRC-funded SeNSS and NERC-funded ARIES Doctoral Training Partnerships

“Governing effective marine protected areas: Backing the blue belt through governance structures”

**Primary supervisor:** Dr Gina Yannitell Reinhardt (Government Department, University of Essex)

**Second supervisor:** Dr Thomas Cameron (School of Life Sciences, University of Essex)

**Home institution and department:** University of Essex, Government Department

**Collaborative partner:** Marine Management Organisation

**SeNSS Pathway:** Politics and International Relations

**ARIES Theme:** Ecology and Biodiversity

**Project background**

Environmental sustainability is an important current issue. Marine conservation is key to sustaining our natural and environmental resources. The conservation of marine species such as porpoises and flame shells, or marine features such as seagrass and chalk reefs, often takes place through Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). Some MPAs perform quite well in preserving and sustaining resources, but others perform much worse. Why is that?

**Project aims and objectives**

This studentship will assess MPA governance structures to determine how and whether they condition MPA conservation performance. Decades of research have explored how best to manage and preserve collective resources. If you would like to be part of developing a solution for marine conservation through rigorous research, please apply!

**Training Opportunities**

A comprehensive package of training will be agreed in consultation with the supervisors. Elements of training will be provided by the supervisors, University of Essex, and by other providers.
Applicants: essential and/or desirable attributes/skills
- **Essential**: bachelor’s degree and interest in or across Public or Environmental Policy, Marine or Conservation Biology, International Development, Political Science, Economics, or Data Sciences.
- **Desirable**: passion for research in the natural world and the pursuit of effective public policy.

Studentship Details:
- This studentship may be awarded on a +3.5 or +4-year basis.
- It may be taken full-time or part-time.
- The studentship award covers tuition fees, and provides a stipend of £15,009 per year for the duration of the award. The student will also be able to apply for up to £5,000 additional funding to support their research.

Residential eligibility
To be eligible for a full award, the following criteria must be met: applicants must be a Home or EU student who must:
- Have **settled status** in the UK, meaning there are no restrictions on how long they can stay in the UK; **AND,**
- Have been ‘ordinarily resident’ in the UK for **3 years prior to 30 September 2020,** when the Studentship starts. ‘Ordinarily resident’ means that they must have been normally residing in the UK (apart from any temporary or occasional absences; **AND,**
- Not have been residing in the UK wholly or mainly for the purpose of full-time education. However, this criterion does not apply to UK or EU nationals.

Students from EU countries other than the UK are generally eligible for a fees-only award. To be eligible for a fees-only award, applicants must be **ordinarily resident in a member state of the EU,** in the same way as UK students must be ordinarily resident in the UK.

How to apply for this studentship
- First, apply for a place to study at Essex by **20 January 2020.** Please go to www.essex.ac.uk/postgraduate-research-degrees for information on how to apply.
- Second, make a separate application to SeNSS for studentship funding by **12.00 pm on Monday 2 March 2020.** Please email pgresearch@essex.ac.uk for access to the online SeNSS application form. Please read the application guidance notes before completing our online application form.

*No extensions to these deadlines will be permitted.*

For further enquiries:
- For queries relating to the application process, please email the Essex Postgraduate Research and Education Team (pgresearch@essex.ac.uk).
- For queries relating to the application process, please email Dr Felicity Szesnat (manager@senss-dtp.ac.uk).
- For queries related to the project itself, please email Dr Gina Yannitell Reinhardt (gina.reinhardt@essex.ac.uk).
About SeNSS
The South East Network for Social Sciences (SeNSS) is a Doctoral Training Partnership, which is funded by the Economics and Social Research Council (ESRC). It is 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.

About ARIES
The Advanced Research and Innovation in the Environmental Sciences (ARIES) DTP was launched in 2018 with funding from the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC). It draws together expertise from five universities and nine research centres, as well as over forty other research-users. The five universities are:

- University of East Anglia
- University of Essex
- University of Kent
- University of Plymouth
- Royal Holloway, University of London

Our partnership has a mission to train postgraduate research students (PGRs) with excellent potential from across society, equipping them with the necessary skills to become 21st Century Scientists: leaders in the science and sustainable business of the natural environment.

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For further information about SeNSS, please visit the ARIES website.