A brief summary of the application process

Please read these guidance notes before submitting your SeNSS application and, in particular, note the following:

1. You do not need to have a Masters degree to apply. If you have equivalent professional experience or an undergraduate degree plus relevant professional experience, you may be eligible for an award.

2. Studentships can be offered on a full- or part- time basis, and on a three-year or four-year basis, unless otherwise indicated.

3. There are four stages to making a SeNSS application: a) check your eligibility (residential and academic, see p.5, below ); b) if eligible, apply to the university where the research project is based for a postgraduate place; c) discuss your application with the project supervisor and; d) apply for a SeNSS studentship

4. The deadline for applying to your chosen university for a postgraduate place is given on the project details. If you are unsure on the deadline please check with the Supervisor or Administrative Lead. We strongly advise you to apply several weeks before this to allow sufficient time to complete the four stages above.

5. Once you have applied to your university for a PhD place, you must apply for SeNSS ESRC funding. The deadline for submitting your SeNSS application is **12:00 on Monday 1 March 2021**. For more details on how to apply for a PhD place at your chosen university please contact the SeNSS Administrative Lead. Details can be found on the proposal detail or the SeNSS website.

6. In order to submit a SeNSS studentship application, you must:
   a. Discuss your potential application with the project supervisor;
   b. Apply for a postgraduate place to study at the university at which this research project is based;
   c. Complete the online application. Print outs and other forms of the application will not be accepted
   d. Read the criteria on p.8, as your SeNSS application will be judged according to these criteria.

7. There is no limit on the number of supervisor-led studentship applications you can make, provided you are eligible for each of these. If you also wish to apply to the student-led competition, you may do so, but you are only permitted to submit ONE application to that competition. For further information, see [http://senss-dtp.ac.uk/applying-for-a-senss-student-led-studentship/](http://senss-dtp.ac.uk/applying-for-a-senss-student-led-studentship/)

8. Please note that the project supervisor will ask you to attend an interview in respect of your SeNSS application.
Collaborative studentships

The seven supervisor-led research projects for 2021/22 are as follows:

1. **How have inequities in health care access and care quality during the coronavirus pandemic exacerbated ethnic inequalities in health?**  
   **Primary supervisor:** Dr. Laia Becares  
   **Institution:** University of Sussex  
   **SeNSS Pathway:** Social Work and Social Policy  
   **Collaborative partner:** The Heath Foundation  
   **Degree options:** 1+3 year award (a one-year MSc followed by a three-year PhD), or a +3 award (a three-year PhD)

2. **Reducing domestic abuse harms: a multi-agency approach to working with perpetrators**  
   **Primary supervisor:** Dr. Katerina Hadjimatheou  
   **Institution:** University of Essex  
   **SeNSS Pathway:** Sociology  
   **Collaborative partner:** Islington Violence Against Women and Girls  
   **Degree options:** +3 award (a three-year PhD)

3. **Using attachment and personality theory to identify critical personal characteristics of a therapist: engendering trust in clinicians working with patients with a diagnosis of psychosis**  
   **Primary supervisor:** Prof Kathryn Greenwood  
   **Institution:** University of Sussex  
   **SeNSS Pathway:** Psychology  
   **Collaborative partner:** Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust  
   **Degree options:** 1+3 year award (a one-year MSc followed by a three-year PhD), or a +3 award (a three-year PhD)

4. **Financing the Green Transition in Developing Countries**  
   **Primary supervisor:** Dr. Juan Pablo Rud  
   **Institution:** Royal Holloway, University of London  
   **SeNSS Pathway:** Economics  
   **Collaborative partner:** European Bank for Reconstruction and Development  
   **Degree options:** +3 award (a three-year PhD)

5. **Governmental financial resilience in the Post COVID-19 era: exploring the antecedents, consequences and dynamics of anticipatory and coping capacities in UK Councils**  
   **Primary supervisor:** Prof Ileana Steccolini  
   **Institution:** University of Essex  
   **SeNSS Pathway:** Business and Management  
   **Collaborative partner:** CIPFA  
   **Degree options:** 1+3 year award (a one-year MSc followed by a three-year PhD), or a +3 award (a three-year PhD)

6. **Patterns of victim-survivor utilisation of domestic violence support services**  
   **Primary supervisor:** Prof. Sylvia Walby  
   **Institution:** City, University of London  
   **SeNSS Pathway:** Sociology  
   **Collaborative partner:** Women’s Aid Federation of England  
   **Degree options:** 1+3 year award (a one-year MSc followed by a three-year PhD), or a +3 award (a three-year PhD)

7. **Understanding the good economy in Norwich city region**  
   **Primary supervisor:** Prof. Sara Connolly  
   **Institution:** University of East Anglia  
   **SeNSS Pathway:** Business and Management  
   **Collaborative partner:** The Norwich Good Economy Commission (NGEC)  
   **Degree options:** 1+3 year award (a one-year MSc followed by a three-year PhD), or a +3 award (a three-year PhD)
1. Contents

A brief summary of the application process ................................................................. 1
Collaborative studentships ............................................................................................ 2
1. Contents ....................................................................................................................... 3
THE APPLICATION FORM ............................................................................................. 4
1. COMPLETING THE PERSON INFORMATION FORM .............................................. 4
2. COMPLETING THE PERSONAL DETAILS FORM ................................................ 4
   If you are applying for both a student-led and a supervisor-led studentship, you will need to complete two different applications ......................................................... 4
SECTION ONE: PERSONAL DETAILS ......................................................................... 4
   1.1. Personal information ............................................................................................ 4
   1.2. Reference number ............................................................................................... 4
   1.3. Home address ..................................................................................................... 5
   1.4. Mode of study ..................................................................................................... 5
   1.5. Residential eligibility rules ................................................................................ 5
3. COMPLETING THE MAIN APPLICATION FORM .................................................... 6
  SECTION ONE: Studentship award details ............................................................... 6
   1.1 Structure of studentship ....................................................................................... 6
   1.2 Declaration regarding studentship structure ....................................................... 7
   1.3 The SeNSS compliant Master degree you plan to study for ............................... 7
   1.4 Concurrent funding applications ......................................................................... 7
  2.1 Why are you applying for a SeNSS collaborative studentship? ............................ 7
  3.1 Details of your previous education and training .................................................... 8
  4.1 Do you hold a Masters degree, or are you currently studying for a Masters degree? 9
  4.3 Your research methods training/skills ................................................................ 9
  5.1 Please detail any work experience that is relevant to your proposed project ........ 9
  5.2 Gaps in your work experience record .................................................................. 10
  6.1 Please write a personal statement ...................................................................... 10
  4. Completing the equal opportunities form ............................................................ 10
  5. Once you have completed the application form .................................................... 11
     Next steps ................................................................................................................ 11
  6. Submitting your application .................................................................................... 11
THE APPLICATION FORM

There are four forms to be completed:

1) The personal information form;
2) The personal details form;
3) The application form; and,
4) The equal opportunities form.

Because the forms must cover various scenarios (for example, whether you are a Home or International student, whether you are studying for a +3, a 1+3, etc.), you will be directed to different questions depending on your answers to these questions.

1. COMPLETING THE PERSON INFORMATION FORM

This very brief form must be completed at the beginning of the application process, as we are required by law to obtain your consent before we can ask you to share any of your personal information with us.

2. COMPLETING THE PERSONAL DETAILS FORM

Please indicate which kind of award you are applying for:

- A student-led studentship: you come up with your own research proposal; or,
- A supervisor-led collaborative studentship: a supervisor comes up with a research question, identifies a collaborative partner to work with them on it, and then SeNSS funds a student to work on this project and join this team.

*If you are applying for both a student-led and a supervisor-led studentship, you will need to complete two different applications.*

SECTION ONE: PERSONAL DETAILS

1.1. Personal information

If your surname has changed since birth for any reason (e.g. marriage), please could you include both your surname at birth and your current surname, as it is written on official documents such as your passport or identity document.

1.2. Reference number

Please create a unique application reference number. This should start with the first letter of your first name, followed by the first four letters of your surname, plus the code for your home university, plus the code for your Pathway.

Home university codes:

- City, University London = City
- University of East Anglia = UEA
- University of Essex = Ess
- Goldsmiths, University of London = Gold
- University of Kent = Kent
- University of Reading = Read
- University of Roehampton = Roe
- Royal Holloway, University of London = RHUL
- University of Surrey = Surr
- University of Sussex = Suss

**Pathway codes:**
- Business and Management Studies = BusMan
- Development Studies = Dev
- Economics = Econ
- Education = Edu
- Human Geography = HGeo
- Linguistics = Ling
- Politics and International Relations = Pol
- Psychology = Psych
- Science, Technology, and Sustainability Studies = STS
- Social Anthropology = SocA
- Social Work and Social Policy = SWSP
- Socio-Legal Studies = SocLeg
- Sociology = Socio

For example, John Smith attending the University of Essex in the Sociology Pathway would have a reference of: **JSmiTEssSocio**;

**and**

Aaleayah Abidi attending the University of Sussex in the Development Studies Pathway would have a reference of: **AAbidSussDev**.

1.3. **Home address**
Please provide your home address at the point of application. That is, the address at which you are ordinarily resident during most of the year.

1.4. **Mode of study**
SeNSS offers both full-time and part-time study. Please indicate which you prefer.

1.5. **Residential eligibility rules**
Everyone, regardless of where they live, or their nationality/citizenship, is eligible to apply for these studentships (so long as you also meet the academic eligibility requirements).

However, we are limited by the ESRC to awarding approximately 10-12 studentships to international applicants each year (30% of the total number of studentship awards we make), and there may be fees implications for these applicants. That is, the ESRC pays students’ fees at a rate of £4,425 p.a., whereas the international fee rate charged by most universities is around £15,000 p.a. SeNSS universities are yet to decide whether they will waive the difference (approximately £8,500 p.a.), meaning that international applicants will not be asked to pay any fees, or whether international applicants will be asked to fund this difference themselves. SeNSS universities will decide on this in December 2020, after which we will post this information on our website as well as update these guidance notes.

You must check your residential status, as you will need to indicate whether you are a **home** or an **international** applicant.

To be a **home** student, you 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 you do not meet any of the criteria above, you are classed as an **international student**.

If you have any questions about your residential status, please contact your chosen university’s SeNSS Administrative Lead.
All successful applicants, whether home or international, will be awarded a **full SeNSS ESRC-funded studentship award**, which includes the following for the duration of the award:

- **your University tuition fees:**
  - **home students**: these are paid in full directly to your University, and you will not be required to pay anything towards these fees;
  - **international students**: as noted, the ESRC pays students’ fees at a rate of £4,425 p.a., whereas the international fee rate charged by most universities is around £15,000 p.a. SeNSS universities are yet to decide whether they will waive the difference (approximately £8,500 p.a.), meaning that international applicants will not be asked to pay any fees, or whether international applicants will be asked to fund this difference themselves. SeNSS universities will decide this in December 2020, after which we will post this information on our website and update these guidance notes;

- **a tax-free maintenance stipend** to pay your living costs: this is currently set at £15,285 per year. For those studying at universities based in London, there is an additional £2,000 per year paid as London Weighting, given that the cost of living is higher for those living in London. **If you are not studying at a London-based University, but still choose to live in London, you will not receive the London Weighting payment**;

- **you will also be eligible to apply for other funding**, including:
  - research training support grant funds of up to £750 per year; and,
  - funding for overseas fieldwork, overseas institutional visits, language training, and placements/internships etc.

Please note that you cannot hold a SeNSS studentship and another scholarship at the same time, except in exceptional circumstances. If you have been, or will be, offered another scholarship, please immediately contact your SeNSS Administrative Lead to discuss this.

*** Once you have completed this form, please click on the green submit button at the bottom of the screen. ***

3. **COMPLETING THE MAIN APPLICATION FORM**

**SECTION ONE: Studentship award details**

1.1 **Structure of studentship**

SeNSS offers the following studentship structures:

- **+3 studentship**: this consists of a three-year PhD;
- **1+3 studentship**: this comprises an integrated one-year Masters degree and a three-year PhD;
- **2+2 Studentship**: this consists of a longer masters programme followed by a shorter PhD programme;
- **+4 studentship**: this comprises both core and advanced training within the PhD programme.

All Pathways offer **1+3 and +3 studentships**. However:

- Due to the nature of collaborative studentships not all structures are always appropriate for the project, so please make sure you select one of the eligible structures for the project you are applying for. This will be on the project details but if you are unsure you can check with the project supervisor.
- **2+2 Studentships** are only offered by the Economics, and Politics and International Relations Pathways.
- **+4 Studentships** may be offered by the following Pathways: Business and Management Studies, Economics, Education, Human Geography, Politics and International Relations, some sub-Pathways within Science, Technology, and Sustainability Studies, Socio-Legal Studies, and Sociology.
1.2 Declaration regarding studentship structure
This question applies to all applicants

Please note that, if SeNSS determines that you have not already met the majority of the core research methods training requirements, you may be offered a different award structure from the one for which you applied. The decision regarding which structure of studentship you may be offered will be based on evidence provided in the past research methods training section of this application form (see Section 8 9, below).

1.3 The SeNSS compliant Master degree you plan to study for
You may only apply for a Masters judged by SeNSS to be compliant with ESRC training outcomes, and offered by your chosen university.

In order to find out whether the Masters you want to take is compliant, please view the SeNSS compliant Masters list.

Here, you will find all the Masters degrees from all ten SeNSS universities which have been judged compliant. Please provide the SeNSS reference number for your intended Masters degree, which appears in the first column of the spreadsheet, e.g. “m001”.

Please ensure that you enter the Masters programme name exactly as contained in the spreadsheet, in your application form, as there are many degrees with similar names. This is the name in the second column, e.g. “MRes Social Science Research Methods”.

1.4 Concurrent funding applications
Please indicate whether you are also applying for any other funded studentship at any other university or any other studentship funded by one of the RCUK (Research Councils of the United Kingdom).

Please note: this is for information only, and will not prejudice your application to SeNSS in any way.

SECTION TWO: Your research proposal
This section applies to all applicants.

2.1 Why are you applying for a SeNSS collaborative studentship?
Please address the following issues in setting out why you are applying for this collaborative studentship. You have a maximum of 3,000 words for this section.

Please explain:
- why you are applying for this particular SeNSS ESRC-funded collaborative studentship;
- why you think you are well-suited to this project, and to working with this specific collaborative partner;
- your understanding of the potential contribution the project is expected to make to relevant academic fields, and its potential impact outside academia; and,
- how well prepared you are for taking up this studentship in terms of prior research training and/or professional experience.
In writing your proposal, please refer to the selection criteria, below, by which your application will be judged.

**SeNSS COLLABORATIVE STUDENTSHIP COMPETITION SELECTION CRITERIA**

The following will be used to assess applications across all pathways and degree formats.

**Evidence of your suitability (“fit”) for this collaborative research project (40%)** – This will be based on your account of your suitability for the research project for which you are applying, as well as your reasons for pursuing collaborative doctoral study. Reference will be made to your Personal Statement, as contained in your application. It will also be based on the information supplied by your referees. SeNSS assessors will be looking for evidence of how well you match or “fit” with the research project, evidence of your understanding of the place of this research project within the current field and its potential impact, and your knowledge of the collaborative partner.

**Evidence that you are well-prepared for taking part in this collaborative research project, and your future career (40%)** – This will be based on your description of how your previous experience (academic and professional) has prepared you for collaborative doctoral study and research, your referees’ evaluation of your suitability for doctoral research (this will be done through considering evidence both you and your referees have provided about your performance at undergraduate and postgraduate level, and of any relevant professional experience), and your description of how the programme will contribute to your long-term career aims. Reference will again be made to your Personal Statement, as well as the Degree Transcripts, individual module marks and degree results you have provided.

**Evidence that your training needs have been properly identified and planned for (20%)** – In your application, you will be asked to provide information about your prior training and/or equivalent professional experience. In drawing up a shortlist of candidates, the shortlisting panel must assess this information, and must ensure that the supervisory team has created a training plan for each candidate, should one be required. This will be discussed with you at your interview, should you be shortlisted, and will be assessed as part of the final decision on which candidate to nominate for the studentship.

**SECTION THREE: Your education and training**

**3.1 Details of your previous education and training**

For each higher education qualification you hold, please provide the information outlined below. To assist you, examples of undergraduate and Masters degrees are provided on the application form.

- Qualification and title of award;
- Name of university/institution studied at;
- Name of country in which this university/institution is situated;
- Month and year that the programme started;
- Month and year that the programme has been/will be completed; and,
- Degree classification (where awarded), or marks obtained for completed modules.

**SECTION FOUR: Your past research methods training**

*This section only applies to those who are applying for a +3 studentship*

This information is needed to determine whether your Masters degree complies with the prior research methods training outcomes required by both SeNSS and the ESRC. These learning outcomes have been agreed in order to ensure you are in the best possible position to undertake your PhD research. Both the ESRC’s requirements and SeNSS’s Learning Outcomes are available in the FluidReview resources section.
4.1 Do you hold a Masters degree, or are you currently studying for a Masters degree?

- **If you hold a Masters degree AND you obtained it through a SeNSS university**, you will need to check whether it is compliant with the ESRC and SeNSS’s learning outcomes. The database of compliant Masters degrees are available at: SeNSS Masters compliance database.
  - If your degree is on the compliant list, then you will need to enter your Masters’ reference number and name and you will be directed to section 5.
  - If your degree is not on the compliant list, you will be directed to answer questions about your research methods training.

- **If you hold a Masters degree from a university which is not a member of the SeNSS consortium**, you will be directed to answer questions about your research methods training.

- **If you do not hold a Masters degree, but think that you have professional experience which you believe is equivalent to a Masters**, then you will be asked questions about your research methods training.

Based on the information you provide, if your Masters degree or your professional experience is judged as having sufficient research methods training, you will be permitted to apply for a +3 PhD.

If your Masters degree or professional experience does not include sufficient research methods training, you will be required to study for a second Masters degree via our 1+3 structure of study, or you might be awarded one or two terms’ worth of additional funding to complete this training.

4.3 Your research methods training/skills

There are seven elements of research methods training to be assessed. For each of these seven elements, there is a list of all the types of training you may have undergone or where your professional experience may have covered these:

- the use of software;
- academic communication;
- research design;
- basic scientific method;
- qualitative research methods;
- quantitative research methods; and,
- and general research knowledge and skills.

Please tick all of those which apply, and state either which modules covered this training, and how it was covered, or how your professional experience has covered these. If you have had formal training in these elements, please provide the name of the module which covered these, and either provide a hyperlink to a webpage with a detailed module outline, or upload a copy of the detailed module outline to FluidReview.

SECTION FIVE: Your work experience

5.1 Please detail any work experience that is relevant to your proposed project.

Where you have held more than one relevant post, please record all of these, placing line breaks in between each, using the following format:

- The name of your employer/organisation;
- The position you held in this organisation;
- The date you started working there, and the date on which you finished your employment;
- Briefly, what your responsibilities were in relation to your position; and,
• Any on the job training you received and/or skills you gained. If these have any bearing on your proposed research project, please provide details of how this training and these skills will benefit you in carrying out your research.

5.2 Gaps in your work experience record
If there are any gaps in your professional experience record, please explain these. For example, gaps may appear in your record from taking parental leave, being someone’s carer, or being unemployed, etc. Please note that any gaps you list will not have a negative effect on your application.

SECTION SIX: Your personal statement
6.1 Please write a personal statement

Please address the issues outlined below:

• Your reasons for applying, and why you deserve a studentship: please discuss your academic interests, and why you wish to study with SeNSS, on this particular research project. Please discuss those aspects of studying with SeNSS you find most appealing, such as taking certain modules or placement opportunities. Please demonstrate your preparedness for the demands of postgraduate life by discussing your passion for your topic, as well as your existing knowledge and experience.
• your career goals: please tell us about your long-term career ambitions, and how a SeNSS studentship relates to these.
• your preparation: please discuss how your undergraduate and/or Masters degree and/or professional experience has prepared you for your proposed research project.
• your skillset: please highlight your relevant skills and knowledge that will enable you to make an impact, and what that impact will be; and summarising your abilities in core areas related to your research project, including IT, organisation, communication, time management and critical thinking. Please also make reference to any grades you've achieved, awards you've won, placements you've undertaken, or conferences you've attended which have either helped prepare you for your research project, or which make you an excellent candidate for a SeNSS studentship.

Please note: there is a maximum word count of 500 words for this section.

SECTION SEVEN: Consulting the project supervisor

You are strongly advised to consult with the project supervisor in drafting your application.

SECTION EIGHT: Your declaration

Please complete the declaration.

4. Completing the equal opportunities form

SeNSS Equal Opportunities information

SeNSS is committed to an Equal Opportunities Policy, and we acknowledge and embrace diversity.

SeNSS and the ESRC are committed to ensuring that those applying for studentships are selected on the basis of merit. By completing this form, you will help us to ensure that our policies and procedures are effective in avoiding discrimination and promoting equal opportunities in awarding studentships. SeNSS needs your help and co-operation to enable it to do this. Filling in this form is not voluntary but, if there are questions you do not wish to answer, you have the option of ticking
“prefer not to say”. The information you provide will be used for monitoring and statistical purposes only, will stay confidential, and be stored securely. Access to this information will be limited to the core SeNSS staff members.

The information you provide on this form will not be released to those involved in making the decision on who receives a studentship.

5. Once you have completed the application form

Next steps

- You will need to save the form and exit it once you have completed filling it in. You will then be returned to your application home page.
- **Upload degree transcripts**: please scan your degree certificates or official award letters and official transcripts, and upload them to your application. You can do this by clicking the start button.

6. Submitting your application

Once your application is complete, you must submit it online.