

# ARIES-SeNSS DTPs

## Joint ESRC-NERC Studentship Proposals for Entry in 2019



We pleased to announce the launch of a scheme of jointly-funded studentships between the ESRC *South East Network for Social Sciences (SeNSS)* and the NERC *Advanced Research and Innovation in Environmental Sciences (ARIES)* DTPs (the latter is pending a funding decision in Sept/Oct 2018). For clarity, this scheme is separate from the SeNSS collaborative studentship competition.

One joint ring-fenced studentship will be funded in each of four successive years, and these will alternate each year between being NERC-ARIES led and ESRC-SeNSS led.

For NERC-ARIES led studentships, any ARIES HEI or hosting partner can lead a joint ARIES-SeNSS studentship.

For ESRC-SeNSS led studentships, any member of the SeNSS consortium may lead a joint SeNSS-ARIES studentship, providing they are a member of the relevant pathway.

For all joint studentships under this scheme, supervisors must be appointed from hosting partners of **both** DTPs, and supervisors should in all cases be from a different university/institute (ideally), different department, or, as a minimum, a clearly distinct unit or centre within the same department. To clarify: the purpose of this scheme is to promote collaboration, and inter-institution proposals will be prioritised. Proposals must clearly demonstrate a genuine cross-Council and cross-disciplinary approach, and the multidisciplinary nature and strength of the collaboration will be a deciding factor in project selection.

**In this inaugural year the studentship awarded (for students starting in October 2019) will be NERC-ARIES led.**

Applications should be made using the ARIES-SeNSS Joint Studentship Proposal Form, available to download from <http://www.enveast.ac.uk/aries/recruitment>.

1. Projects must fall within the NERC remit, and specifically within one or more of the five **ARIES Research Themes** ([bit.ly/aries\\_res](http://bit.ly/aries_res)). The project must also fall within one or more of the 13 **SeNSS Pathways** ([www.senns-dtp.ac.uk/about-senns](http://www.senns-dtp.ac.uk/about-senns)). In an ARIES-led year the primary supervisor **must** be from a hosting partner in ARIES and the second supervisor **must** be from a SeNSS partner offering the relevant pathway. The primary supervisor does not need to be from an institution offering the relevant SeNSS pathway (but can be); the second supervisor does not need to be from an institution that is part of ARIES as well as SeNSS (but can be). For example, Kent (which is not in the Human Geography pathway) may lead a project in the NERC remit and Human Geography pathway, with a second supervisor from Human Geography at Sussex (which is not in ARIES). In a SeNSS-led year, the primary supervisor **must** be from a SeNSS partner offering the relevant pathway and the second supervisor **must** be from a hosting partner in ARIES. For example Surrey (which is not in ARIES) may lead a project in the NERC remit and Development Studies pathway, with a second supervisor from Plymouth (which is not part of SeNSS).
2. The deadline for submission will be **12:00 noon Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2018**, and proposals should be emailed to the ARIES office at [aries.dtp@uea.ac.uk](mailto:aries.dtp@uea.ac.uk). Proposals will be scrutinised by a cross-DTP sift panel. Primary supervisors may only submit one such project, but they may also submit project proposals to the general ARIES studentship round and/or to the SeNSS collaborative studentship competition. There are no such limitations for secondary supervisors.
3. All members of supervisory teams on these studentships must be research-active members of staff; i.e. either (a) submitted by their institution to REF 2014; or (b) whose research comes under a SeNSS Pathway for which their home institution submitted a qualifying unit of assessment in the SeNSS DTP bid. **Early career researchers** would qualify in terms of (b). All supervisors must have undertaken approved professional supervisory development training in the last three years (to be satisfied by

- the time of registration of the student concerned, or within three months of that date); and to have an excellent record of formal progress reporting in the previous 12 months for all their PGR students.
- 4. All other ARIES supervisory team requirements stand, including the necessity for there to be two supervisory team members in the institution hosting the studentship.
  - 5. Key social science research methods and subject-specific training needed for the student to meet the ESRC core training requirements should be identified: (<https://esrc.ukri.org/files/skills-and-careers/studentships/postgraduate-training-and-development-guidelines-2015/>)
  - 6. The studentship awarded will be the standard 3.5 years period for ARIES studentships (pro rata for part-time students), but a special case may be made for an extended studentship (of up to 4 years) where there are significant training needs in social sciences that might require additional time to complete (for example, taking relevant Masters level modules). For the avoidance of doubt, though, 1+3 studentships cannot be funded under this scheme.
  - 7. CASE or other collaborative project proposals are permitted, and indeed are encouraged.
  - 8. Due to the lower RTSG available through the ESRC DTP, the notional maximum budget for research costs is £5,300 over 3.5 years. However, the SeNSS also has available separate funds to support overseas fieldwork, and ARIES will consider requests for higher costs where required. It will still be possible for students to request financial support from ARIES for conference attendance and critical training, where this training is not available through the ARIES and SeNSS DTPs.
  - 9. The Research Councils' academic and residential eligibility requirements will apply for this scheme  
<https://www.ukri.org/files/legacy/news/training-grants-january-2018-pdf/>.