

ESRC Collaborative Scholarships 2016-17

Project Title: Skills For The Future? An Analysis of the UK Vocational Education and Training System's Capacity to Produce Technician Skills For Twenty-First Century Manufacturing

Partner Organisation: The Gatsby Charitable Foundation

King's is now inviting applications for this **ESRC Collaborative Doctoral Studentship**, based in the Department of Political Economy at King's College London in collaboration with The Gatsby Foundation. The scholarship will commence from October 2016 onwards and is open to new incoming full-time PhD students only.

Project Description:

This project examines the capacity of the UK system of vocational education and training (VET) to provide the technician-level skills required by the UK manufacturing industry. 'Technicians' are people who occupy roles requiring 'intermediate' (i.e., level 3-5) skills in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. They are most commonly trained via apprenticeships. Evidence indicates that UK manufacturers are finding it difficult both to recruit skilled technicians ready-made and also to use the VET system to train technicians.

The project, which will involve academics and PhD students at Oxford and Cambridge as well as King's, will investigate the effectiveness of the UK VET system in generating the technicians required by manufacturers, especially in industries—both established and emergent—where methods of production are being transformed through the use of new technology. Through case studies of selected industries, the project will analyse the extent to which the set of institutions currently governing the provision of technician training in the UK is able to generate the information and the incentives required to ensure that the training programmes, training workshops, and tutors needed to train technicians to work with new technologies are in place, so that the requisite workers will be available as industries develop.

For more information about the project, please follow this link:

<http://www.gatsby.org.uk/education/about/gatsby-technical-education-phd-studentships>

Supervisors:

Lead Supervisor: Dr Paul Lewis

Second Supervisor: Professor Brian Salter

Partner Organisation Supervisor: Jennifer Allen

Eligibility:

Applicants **MUST**:

- Plan to commence a full-time MPhil/PhD degree programme at King's College London during 2016-17

- Meet the ESRC's [residency eligibility criteria](#);
- Complete and submit the required application documentation by the funding deadline;
- Fulfill the relevant academic entry requirements set by King's College London.

Application procedure:

Applicants must complete and submit:

- a standard ESRC +3 Case for Support application form, giving this project name in the 'Research project title' section. The application form can be found here: <http://www.kcl.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/fees-and-funding/student-funding/postgraduate-research-funding/ESRC-Collaborative-Studentships.aspx>
The supervisor reference section will not be required. The form must be sent to esrcstudentship@kcl.ac.uk by **17:00 GMT 31 May 2016**. The subject line of the email should read 'ESRC Collaborative 2016-17 - [Your Name]'.
- An admissions application to the research programme via the King's online admissions portal: <https://myapplication.kcl.ac.uk> All applications must be submitted and be complete by the application deadline of **17:00 GMT 31 May 2016**. To be considered complete, the admissions application must include two references, and academic transcripts. It will be the applicant's responsibility to ensure that their references and transcripts are submitted to the College on time. When completing the online admissions application, under the 'Funding' section please select 'Economic & Social Research Council' from the drop-down menu in response to question four, 'Name of grant awarding body'.

Selection: Please note that as part of selection, short-listed candidates will be invited for interview.

Funding Details: The scholarship will cover tuition fees and provide an annual stipend (in 2015/16 this amount was £18,057). Funds will be also provided by the partner organisation to support various elements of the project. Gatsby also plan to offer the opportunity for the student to complete a work placement (either with Gatsby or a partner organisation) lasting for up to twelve weeks.

Length of Award: 3 years (PhD)
