

LISS DTP PhD studentship

Studentship start date: 1st October 2025

+3.5 years (PhD only)

Application deadline: 23rd February 2025

Full time applicants only

Studentship project title: Responses to the Crisis in Local Government Financial Reporting and Audit in the UK

Supervisors: Professor Crawford Spence and Dr Rita Samiolo

Overview

King's Business School is looking to recruit an outstanding candidate to undertake a funded PhD exploring the 'Crisis in Local Government Financial Reporting and Audit in the UK'. Local Government reporting and audit is a cornerstone of good financial governance and accountability but has collapsed in recent years as local authorities have seen their funding cut drastically. Attempts to revive reporting and audit are underway but at a nascent stage. The PhD will explore these attempts at revitalization and seek to identify the key organizational, cultural and institutional challenges that local authorities face. More details of the project brief can be found [here](#).

Funding

King's Business School is partnering with the Institute for Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW) in this PhD project which is funded by the [London Interdisciplinary Social Science Doctoral Training Partnership](#) (LISS DTP). Studentships include UKRI Home Tuition Fees, plus a stipend at the UKRI rate, which is valued at **£21,237 per annum for 2024/25** (full time). Please note that LISS are only able to fund up to 30% of their total cohort as international students.

Eligibility and Selection Criteria

Candidates should hold, or be completing, a Master's degree with a Merit or higher (or overseas equivalent) and have achieved a 2:1 Bachelor's degree (or overseas equivalent) in a relevant social science discipline such as accounting, business, public policy, sociology or political economy. Prior knowledge of accounting and finance is an advantage but not a strict necessity as the project will be interdisciplinary in nature and focus on the structures and dynamics surrounding reporting and audit practices. An aptitude for social theory and qualitative research is a must. Additional entry requirements relating to English Language can be found [here](#).

How to Apply

Applications should be submitted to crawford.spence@kcl.ac.uk by **23rd February 2025** and should include the following materials:

- a diversity monitoring form, available [here](#)
- a cover letter outlining what skills and experience you will bring to the project and explaining your motivation for applying (1000 words maximum)
- a completed ESRC LISS-DTP CASE application form (attached)
- your CV
- copies of academic transcripts for all relevant degrees
- a 2000-word research proposal detailing your initial ideas about how to tackle the project conceptually and methodologically (contact crawford.spence@kcl.ac.uk to obtain background reading materials for this)
- one reference letter

Shortlisted candidates will be invited for an online interview w/c 10th or 17th March. Successful candidates will be notified by the end of April, after which they should submit an application to the [King's Business School doctoral programme](#) to formalise the offer.