PhD Scholarships in Demography / Population Studies / Quantitative Geography

We invite applications from qualified and highly motivated students for three 3.5-year PhD Studentships in Demography / Population Studies / Quantitative Geography. The PhD studentships are part of the ESRC Centre for Population Change & Connecting Generations (CPC-CG) and are funded by the University of St Andrews. PhD students will be working on one of the CPC-CG projects with the focus on how generations support each other in different stages of their lives. The projects are as follows: a) Transition to adulthood; b) Reproductive strategies and families; c) Social and spatial mobility; d) Community resilience and coherence; and e) Connecting generations across geography. For the further details on the projects, please see: https://www.cpc.ac.uk/research_programme/connecting_generations/#Current.

The scholarship will cover tuition fees, a yearly stipend of £17,668 per year (in the 2022/23 academic year, subject to increase annually), and a research training support grant (RTSG) of £7,500 per year. Applicants must meet the following eligibility criteria: 1) A first class or an upper secondary undergraduate or master's degree in any area of social and environmental sciences (including statistics and applied mathematics); 2) Interest in application of advanced quantitative methods in social sciences; and 3) Interest in working with longitudinal and/or spatial data. Coding skills are an advantage (e.g. in R, Stata, Python or SAS), but not required. The University of St Andrews strive for equal opportunities. Applications of any background are welcome.

Candidates must submit an online application by 12th July 2023 at the following link: https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/study/apply/postgraduate/research/. They should apply to the programme “PhD Geography (Science)”. In a cover letter, applicants must: a) specify the project they apply for; and b) outline their interest in applying advanced quantitative methods in social science research. They should also upload an academic writing sample (normally a chapter of master's thesis) to their online application. Shortlisted applicants will be interviewed in the second half of July.

The successful applicant will become a member of the ESRC Centre for Population Change & Connecting Generations (CPC-CG) and the Population and Health Research Group (PHRG) at the School of Geography and Sustainable Development. CPC-CG is a joint partnership between the Universities of Southampton, St. Andrews, Stirling and Oxford and the Resolution Foundation (https://www.cpc.ac.uk/research_programme/connecting_generations/#Current). The research of the PHRG covers a wide range of topics including the analysis of family and fertility dynamics; life course choices; internal and international migration; ethnicity and minority populations; health and mortality; and population inequalities. The group combines expertise in advanced techniques of demographic, longitudinal and spatial analysis (https://populationandhealth.wp.st-andrews.ac.uk/). The PhD students can also apply for a place at the International Max Planck Research School for Population, Health and Data Science (IMPRS-PHDS) https://www.imprs-phds.mpg.de/, a unique doctoral training programme, which the University of St Andrews is affiliated with.

This is an excellent opportunity for highly motivated PhD students to work in an international team of researchers on cutting-edge population and social science topics and applying advanced quantitative methods and statistical modelling. The studentships start in September 2023 (or soon thereafter). For informal enquiries, please contact Prof. Hill Kulu (hill.kulu@st-andrews.ac.uk), Dr. David McCollum (David.McCollum@st-andrews.ac.uk) or Dr. Júlia Mikolai (julia.mikolai@st-andrews.ac.uk). Please include 'CPC-CG PhD studentships' in the subject line of your email.