PhD Scholarship in Population and Migration Studies

The effect of regional factors on migrant employment, family and housing

We invite applications from qualified and highly motivated students for a 3.5-year PhD studentship to investigate the effect of regional factors on migrant employment, family, and housing trajectories. The project is part of the ERC-funded MigrantLife project (https://migrantlife.wp.st-andrews.ac.uk/). It will compare migrant life trajectories between different regions and countries of the UK: e.g., Southeast (London), Scotland and the rest of the UK. The first part of the project will analyse regional variation in the life trajectories of immigrants and their descendants; in the second part of the project, future life trajectories will be simulated. The project will improve our understanding of how various meso-level factors (e.g., regional labour and housing markets) shape the life trajectories of immigrants and their descendants.

The PhD scholarship will cover: 1) A maintenance grant of £15,560 per year (in the 2021/22 academic year, subject to increase annually according to the ESRC rules and regulations); 2) A research training support grant (RTSG) of £750 per year; and 3) Tuition fee to the amount of a standard fee for UK students (£4,500 in the 2021/22 academic year). Applicants must meet the following eligibility criteria: 1) A master's degree with distinction or merit in any area of social sciences including statistics and applied mathematics; 2) Interest in application of advanced quantitative methods in social sciences; and 3) Interest in working with longitudinal data. Coding skills are an advantage (e.g. in R, Stata 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 23rd August 2021. Please see the advice on applying for research degree programmes at: https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/study/apply/postgraduate/research/. Please apply to the programme “PhD Geography (Science)”. Please include a covering letter outlining your interest in population and migration research and in applying advance quantitative methods in social science research. Shortlisted applicants will be interviewed at the end of August.

The project will be part of the ERC-funded MigrantLife project. The successful applicant will also become a member of the Population and Health Research Group (PHRG) at the School of Geography and Sustainable Development and of the ESRC Centre for Population Change (CPC). The research of the PHRG covers a wide range of topics including the analysis of health and mortality; family and fertility dynamics; and migration. The group combines expertise in demograph, longitudinal and spatial data analysis (https://populationandhealth.wp.st-andrews.ac.uk/). CPC is a joint partnership between the Universities of Southampton, St. Andrews, and Stirling (http://www.cpc.ac.uk/).

This is an excellent opportunity for a highly motivated PhD student to work in an international team of researchers on a cutting-edge social science topic and applying advanced quantitative methods to longitudinal data. The studentship is available in September 2021 or soon thereafter. For informal inquiries, please contact Prof. Hill Kulu (Hill.Kulu@st-andrews.ac.uk). Please include ‘MigrantLife PhD studentship’ in the subject line of your email.