

PhD Scholarship in Demography and Spatial Analysis

Supervisors

Prof Hill Kulu (hill.kulu@st-andrews.ac.uk) and Dr Urška Demšar (Urška.Demsar@st-andrews.ac.uk).

We invite applications from qualified and highly motivated students for a **3.5-year PhD Studentship** in the intersection of Demography and Spatial Analysis. The PhD student will be working on a project on Migration Trajectories and Residential Proximity to Parents among Immigrants and Their Descendants in the UK. The project will investigate: a) where do immigrants and their descendants live in various stages of their lives; and 2) how does residential proximity to their parents varies during their lives. The project will involve analysis of individual-level data using longitudinal methods and spatial analysis. The PhD studentship is part of the ESRC Centre for Population Change & Connecting Generations (CPC-CG) and is funded by the University of St Andrews. CPC-CG is a joint partnership between the Universities of Southampton, St. Andrews, Stirling and Oxford and the Resolution Foundation. For further details on CPC-CG, please see:

https://www.cpc.ac.uk/research_programme/connecting_generations/#Current.

Funding

The scholarship will cover tuition fees, a yearly stipend of £19,237 per year (in the 2024/25 academic year, subject to increase annually), and a research training support grant (RTSG) of £750 per year.

Eligibility

Applicants must fit the [entry requirements of the University of St Andrews](#) alongside 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, data science and applied mathematics; 2) Interest in the 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 strives for equal opportunities. Applications of any background are welcome.

How to Apply

Candidates must submit an online application **by Monday 24th June 2024** at the following link: <https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/study/apply/postgraduate/research/>.

The candidate should apply to the programme “PhD Geography (Science)”, School of Geography and Sustainable Development. The application should include:

- Statement of Purpose (max 800 words). In the statement of purpose, applicants must outline their interest in applying advanced quantitative methods in social science research.
- CV
- Transcripts (undergraduate and/or master's degrees).

- Example of academic writing in English (e.g. your undergraduate or MSc dissertation, conference paper or similar)
- Names and contact details of two referees
- Evidence of English language capability: English language test scores as per Profile [6-D](#), unless exempt, see [English language requirements](#).

Shortlisted applicants will be interviewed in early July.

This is an excellent opportunity for a highly motivated PhD student 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 studentship starts on 27th September 2024 or soon thereafter.** For informal enquiries, please contact Prof Hill Kulu (hill.kulu@st-andrews.ac.uk) or Dr Urška Demšar (Urška.Demsar@st-andrews.ac.uk). For enquiries about the application process please contact Helen Olasz (gsdpgradmin@st-andrews.ac.uk). Please include 'CPC-CG PhD studentships' in the subject line of your email.

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. 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.

[About the School of Geography and Sustainable Development, University of St Andrews](#)

The successful applicant will conduct their PhD in the School of Geography & Sustainable Development at St Andrews, which is well-known for world-leading research in a number of areas and has three research groups: Environmental Change (ECRG), Population and Health (PHRG), and Geographies of Sustainability, Society, Inequalities, and Possibilities (GOSSIP). It further hosts the Bell-Edwards Geographic Data Institute (BEGIN), which specialises in analysis and modelling of geographic data. According to the Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2021, 94% of research conducted in SGSD was classified as world-leading or internationally excellent, with an internationally excellent research environment in the School. The School also has a well-established reputation for high teaching quality and was ranked fourth in the UK by The Times Good University Guide 2024 and the Guardian University Guide 2024. The School has 44 academic staff, 11 postdoctoral fellows and 44 PhD students, supported by 3 technicians and 9 administrative staff.

[Postgraduate Research Study in the School of Geography and Sustainable Development](#)

The School's [44 PhD students](#) (in St Andrews these are called research postgraduates, PGRs) are a vital part of its research culture. PGRs are engaged across the research interests of the School and all PGRs are members of Research Group(s). In addition to regular supervision and research group meetings, PGRs gather monthly for Lunch&Learn sessions with discussions

related to PhD life and future careers, and there is a programme of social activities throughout the year, led by the PGR Reps. PGR Reps are members of the Postgraduate Committee which oversees PGR matters for the School and is chaired by the Director of Postgraduate Studies.

PGRs are provided with desk space, co-located with staff in the Irvine Building. PGRs have access to all the facilities of the University, including social, sporting and library facilities. PGRs also have the opportunity to undertake skills training provided by the Centre for Educational Enhancement and Development (CEED) at St Andrews including their GradSkills Programme.

PGR students are also expected to contribute to teaching within the School, typically taking on demonstrating, tutoring and marking duties for undergraduate courses throughout their studies. This is paid additionally and separately from the stipend.

Progress through the PhD is monitored via the Annual PGR Conference and Review Meetings which take place in April. Through this process, together with supervision and training, the School achieves outstanding rates of PhD completion. Our PGR graduates have gone on to jobs in academia, industry, government, and consultancy in the UK and internationally.

[Note about finances for international applicants](#)

Given the high cost of living in the UK, the stipend in this call will cover cost of living expenses for the successful candidate (one person) but is not sufficient to additionally cover costs for any of their dependants. If you are considering bringing dependants, please be aware that you need an alternative source of funding. Also note that the stipend does not cover visa or relocation costs and that you will be required to cover those yourself. See here for an approximate estimate of costs: [cost of living expenses](#).