North West Social Science Doctoral Training Partnership

Economic and Social Research Council

NWSSDTP Student Handbook 2026-27

The North West Social Science Doctoral Training Partnership (NWSSDTP) is an Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) funded postgraduate training consortium. The NWSSDTP is one of 15 DTPs in the UK and brings together the universities of Keele, Lancashire, Lancaster, Liverpool and Manchester. Studentships are available across the full range of social science disciplines, and students have access to research expertise across the five constituent universities.

The NWSSDTP is governed by the regulations of the ESRC Postgraduate Funding Guide (https://www.ukri.org/publications/esrc-postgraduate-funding-guide/) and the UKRI Terms and Conditions for Training Funding (https://www.ukri.org/publications/terms-and-conditions-for-training-funding/).

This document is for NWSSDTP-funded students and their supervisors, to outline the key conditions and opportunities associated with an NWSSDTP studentship.

Contents

Section 1: Key conditions of an NWSSDTP Studentship 3

Financial details 3

Disabled Student's Allowance (DSA) 3

Supervision 4

Ethics 4

Transfers 5

Part-time and Full-time Study Arrangements 5

Change to Project Details 6

Living arrangements during the studentship 6

Annual Leave 6

Employment during the studentship 7

Family Leave 7

Adoption Leave 8

Neonatal Care Leave 8
Medical Leave 8
Additional Leave 9
Suspensions and Extensions 10
Thesis Submission 10
First destination data 11
Publication of results 11
Data Protection Rights and Responsibilities 12
Equity, Diversity and Inclusion 12
Complaints Policy 13
Section 2: Additional Funding Opportunities 14
Research Training Support Grant 14
Internships 14
Research in Practice Placement Scheme (RiPPS) 14
Overseas Institutional Visits 15
UK and Overseas Fieldwork Fund 15
Difficult Language Training (DLT) 16
UKRI Policy Internship Scheme 16
Section 3: Training Opportunities 17
Methods North West 17
National Centre for Research Methods (NCRM) 19
Research Capability Hub 19
Joint Events with the AHRC NWCDTP 19
Section 4: Expectations of NWSSDTP Studentship Holders 20
Development Needs Analysis (DNA) 20
NWSSDTP Week and Induction 20
Section 5: Key Contacts 21
Institutional Administrative Contacts and Academic Leads 21
NWSSDTP Office 21
Pathway Representatives 22

Section 1: Key conditions of an NWSSDTP Studentship

Financial details

A full NWSSDTP studentship comprises:

- A maintenance stipend, at the UKRI recommended rate (£21,805 in 2026/27)
- Payment of tuition fees at the 'Home' rate

All constituent institutions have committed to waiving additional fees for international students who are funded by the NWSSDTP. Tuition fees will be charged at a 'Home' rate, which is then funded by the studentship. International Students will not need to pay additional Tuition Fees themselves.

The ESRC award to the NWSSDTP includes funding per student per annum for a Research Training Support Grant (RTSG) and Fieldwork costs. At the instruction of the ESRC, **students do not automatically receive this as a personal allowance** – the funds are pooled across the DTP and students can apply for support using the processes outlined in section 2.

Disabled Student's Allowance (DSA)

Disabled Students Allowances (DSA) are intended to help with additional expenditure for the costs of study-related requirements that may be incurred because of disability, mental health problems or specific learning difficulties that mean additional support is needed to undertake a PhD. The allowances can cover the cost of non-medical personal assistance, items of specialist equipment, extra travel costs and general expenses.

The Research Councils have adopted a harmonised approach to DSA. Additional guidance is available on the UKRI website (https://www.ukri.org/publications/disabled-students-allowance-dsa-claims/)

Universities will undertake the assessment of need and provide costs for the student when they are required. The university will then claim back eligible costs at the end of the academic year from the ESRC by submitting a completed DSA claim form to the individual research councils by 31 October.

If you think you might be entitled to additional funding and support as a result of a disability, please be aware that this is handled through your university and that you do not have to wait

until you are registered to start the process of requesting support. Please reach out to the relevant team to discuss further:

- Keele University: support.dds@keele.ac.uk
- University of Lancashire: inclusivesupport@uclan.ac.uk
- Lancaster University: disability@lancaster.ac.uk
- University of Liverpool: disteam@liv.ac.uk
- University of Manchester: dso@manchester.ac.uk

Supervision

NWSSDTP students identify an appropriate primary supervisor at the point of application. Applicants should have been in touch with the supervisor prior to submitting the funding application, to discuss their project and the supervisory fit. The fit of the supervisory team is assessed as part of the application process, and as such it is crucial that any potential changes to supervision during the studentship are highlighted to the NWSSDTP.

Any requested changes in supervision will need to be approved by the student's Head of Department, School or Faculty, who has the right to turn down a supervisor if they are not deemed suitable/appropriate or have insufficient experience. Similarly, the NWSSDTP may intervene if suitable alternative supervisory arrangements are not made.

Ethics

As an important source of public funding for postgraduate training in the social sciences, the ESRC has an obligation towards the public and academic community to try to ensure that such training is conducted in a professional manner and will not give rise to distress or annoyance to individuals. NWSSDTP students are expected to follow their institution's ethics approval process, and the ESRC has its own Framework for Research Ethics (https://www.ukri.org/councils/esrc/guidance-for-applicants/research-ethics-guidance/framework-for-research-ethics/) which should also be consulted. It is expected that proper consideration has been given to any ethical issues that the research project may raise.

Transfers

It is possible, under certain circumstances, for a student's studentship to transfer to another institution, for example if their primary supervisor moves institution.

This will only be approved if the transfer is to an approved subject pathway within another accredited ESRC Doctoral Training Partnership. If a student wishes to transfer to a university and/or pathway which is not accredited by the ESRC, or to a subject outside the ESRC's remit, then they will have to withdraw from their ESRC studentship.

To apply for a transfer, the following documentation must be submitted to ESRC for prior approval:

- A request from the student confirming the grounds on which the transfer is being requested and the pathway and RO to which they intend to transfer.
- A statement from the original RO relinquishing the studentship and confirming that alternative supervision is not available from across the DTP/CDT.
- A statement from the new RO confirming their acceptance of the studentship.

These documents should be sent to the NWSSDTP Manager, who will submit the case to the ESRC for final approval.

Part-time and Full-time Study Arrangements

NWSSDTP Students can undertake their programmes on a part-time or full-time basis. Stipend payments will be pro rata for part-time students.

It is possible for an NWSSDTP student to apply to transfer between part-time and full-time studentship award, or vice versa. Students need to apply via the transfer of registration process at their home institution. The ESRC recommends that, where possible, changes of mode of study should take effect from the beginning of a quarter (i.e. 1st October, 1st January, 1st April, or 1st July).

- Holders of CASE collaborative awards will require the agreement of the collaborating partner before any request can be considered.
- A transfer will not normally be allowed for acute health problems where suspension of the award is the appropriate course of action. However, where a health problem

might prevent a student from permanently studying on a full-time basis, a case for a transfer to part time can be considered.

- A transfer from part-time to full-time cannot involve employment that would prevent the student from working on the PhD on a full-time basis.
- A transfer from full-time to part-time will be considered where a change in domestic circumstances means that a dependant requires more of the award holder's time, or where the award holder has taken up part-time employment.
- Fixed-period transfers are unable to be considered within a master's programme.

Change to Project Details

Minor changes to thesis titles and research outlines do not need to be referred or approved by the NWSSDTP. Significant changes to the title and/or focus of research need to be approved in advance by the NWSSDTP. Such approval will not be given unless a clear justification is provided.

It is recognised that research outlines and proposed titles are likely to change during the master's phase of a master's + PhD studentship, prior to the commencement of the PhD. Students should still notify the NWSSDTP of any significant changes. Only in exceptional circumstances will a major change in topic or direction be approved during the PhD phase of a studentship.

Living arrangements during the studentship

It is expected that all NWSSDTP students will reside within a reasonable travel time of the university at which they are registered, and we would expect there to be regular in-person contact between the student and supervisor. Should a student need to live further away (only within the UK) for a period, the NWSSDTP will not be able to provide any additional financial support to facilitate this i.e. the costs of travelling to campus for compulsory activity or more expensive travel resulting from living further away.

Annual Leave

Full-time students are allowed up to eight weeks' holiday (including public holidays) each academic year as approved by their supervisor. If a studentship covers a period of less than 12 months in any academic year, a student's holiday entitlement will be reduced on a pro-rata basis. Students do not need to formally record annual / holiday leave with the NWSSDTP.

International students should ensure they are aware of the regulations of their visa with regards to holiday leave and travel outside the UK. Institutional visa teams will be best placed to advise students in need of further guidance.

Employment during the studentship

NWSSDTP studentship award holders are permitted to undertake a certain amount of paid teaching or other research work during their studentship, provided they spend a minimum of 1,650 hours (if full-time) each academic year on their doctoral research and research training. This equates to 37.5 hours a week over 44 weeks (see 'Annual Leave' above). Their programme of postgraduate training must be compatible with such employment, and their primary supervisor must approve this.

Where NWSSDTP students undertake demonstration or teaching, or other types of employment at their home institution, they should be paid for this in addition to any stipend they receive from the NWSSDTP. It should not be treated as a compulsory element of the award or of any research training.

Students may undertake a small amount of other paid work either in term time or during holidays, but the ESRC does not encourage such work, especially during the times when students are expected to be fully engaged in research training and thesis preparation.

Full-time studentship award holders cannot hold either a full-time job, or a permanent part-time job, during the period of their award. Part-time ESRC studentship award holders cannot hold a full-time job.

Full-time studentship award holders cannot change to part-time for reasons of employment during the final six months of their studentship.

Family Leave

ESRC funded students are entitled to 52 weeks of maternity leave. The first 26 weeks are paid at full stipend rate. The following 13 weeks are paid at a level commensurate with statutory maternity pay. The final 13 weeks would be unpaid.

To be eligible for maternity leave, the period of leave must commence before the end of studentship funding. Maternity leave can begin up to 11 weeks before the expected week of childbirth.

Partners are entitled to up to 10 days paid Partner's or Paternity Leave on full stipend. There is no qualifying period for parental leave. This can be taken at any time within the first year since birth. ESRC funded students are not eligible for the government's shared parental leave scheme.

International students should ensure they are aware of the regulations of their visa with regards to parental leave, as this may change or limit the support they are able to access. Institutional visa teams will be best placed to advise students in need of further guidance.

Adoption Leave

A student is eligible for Adoption Leave if the student has been newly matched with a child through an adoption agency, or if the student has used a surrogate during their studentship. Leave during the studentship for a main adopter of a child begins when the child's placement starts, or an agreed period of time before the child's placement starts to support preparation. The support available for the main adopter is commensurate to Maternity Leave. The support available for a student who is the partner is commensurate to Partner's or Paternity Leave.

Neonatal Care Leave

A student is eligible for Neonatal Care Leave if: (1) the birth of the child is within the funded period of the studentship or a planned period of Maternity Leave and the child is receiving neonatal care in a hospital and (2) they are either the mother of the child or the father/ partner of the mother. One week of Neonatal Care Leave should be provided for each week or part-week in which the child is in neonatal care, up to a maximum of 12 weeks. This is additional to any Maternity Leave or Partner's or Paternity Leave.

Medical Leave

Medical Leave should be used for any circumstances by which a student is deemed unfit to study. It may also be used to provide paid leave to attend medical appointments where flexible study is not possible.

Examples of leave that can be supported under Medical Leave are:

- Sick leave (including both physical and mental health)
- Pregnancy-related illness
- Antenatal appointments

- Fertility treatment – a student experiencing fertility issues and has been medically advised that they require leave, including (but not limited to) undergoing fertility treatment.
- Disability-related illness (including chronic illness)
- Disability-related appointments (including for chronic illness) e.g. diagnosis, therapy or treatment.
- Gender reassignment – a student undertaking gender reassignment and has been medically advised that they require leave.

NWSSDTP students can take up to 28 weeks medical leave within any 12 months period, and their studentship will be extended accordingly. Beyond 28 weeks, studentships should be suspended. Total suspensions on account of illness cannot normally exceed 12 months during the course of the studentship. Medical Leave cannot typically be applied retrospectively.

Due to the structured nature of most master's programmes, the above medical leave policy cannot usually apply during the master's year of a master's + PhD studentship. Students who are taken ill during the master's for more than a few weeks will normally need to request a one year suspension and return to the programme at the same point the following year.

International students should ensure they are aware of the regulations of their visa with regards to medical leave, as this may change or limit the support they are able to access. Institutional visa teams will be best placed to advise students in need of further guidance.

Additional Leave

Additional leave may be provided to cover specific instances where a student may be required to be absent from study that are not covered by other types of leave. These include:

- Special leave (including bereavement and pregnancy loss)
- Baby loss (including stillbirth and neonatal death)
- Carer's leave
- Additional disability leave associated with delayed adjustments
- Health and safety
- Public duties

Further details on the requirements and entitlements associated with these reasons for leave requests can be found in the UKRI Terms and Conditions for Training Funding (https://www.ukri.org/publications/terms-and-conditions-for-training-funding/) or get in touch with the NWSSDTP at nwssdtp@liverpool.ac.uk to discuss your personal circumstances. Supervisors are welcome to get in touch on behalf of students who are unable to reach out.

Suspensions and Extensions

Studentships are intended to be held on a continuous basis. Sometimes, however, a student may need to interrupt their studies, for example as a result of their own persistent health problems or those of dependants, or to take up the opportunity of a temporary, short-term post which can be justified as being highly relevant to their thesis or research training.

Please note that suspensions can only be considered during the funded period of the studentship. If a student interrupts their registration after their ESRC funding has finished a suspension cannot be considered.

The period of suspension cannot exceed one calendar year in any one instance, and the total periods of suspension should not exceed one calendar year during the lifetime of the award. The student's supervisor must approve the suspension, as well as the non-HEI partner supervisor in CASE studentships. The student's supervisor must confirm that the suspension of studies will not delay the submission of the final thesis by more than the length of the suspension.

Retrospective requests cannot be considered. Due to the nature of training received in the master's year of a master's + PhD award (and equivalent structures), suspensions should be for 12 months to allow the student to re-join the course at the same point at which they left.

Thesis Submission

If a student's funding commenced **before August 2024**, they are encouraged to submit their thesis at the end of their funded period but are permitted to undertake an unpaid writing up year where their university permits this. All full-time students must submit no later than one year after their funding end date and part-time students must submit within two years of their funding end date.

If a student's funding commenced **after September 2024**, they are expected to submit their thesis by the end of their funded period and are strongly discouraged from taking any unpaid writing up period, even where their university permits this. To facilitate this, studentships are longer as standard and there are a range of support mechanisms in place (including medical, parental, and compassionate leave) which may extend the studentship.

Students cannot access Research Training Support Grant expenses, or apply for additional DTP funded opportunities, after the end of the studentship. Students will have to pay for any fees, including Submission Pending fees, incurred after the studentship ends. If a student submits their thesis before the end of the studentship, the date of submission will become the studentship end date, and no further payments will be made. Any overpaid maintenance will be reclaimed.

First destination data

The ESRC requires DTPs to provide data on the first employment destinations of all ESRC-funded students. The Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) collects destination data on behalf of all the research councils and universities must ensure that they complete the research council funding fields accurately. DTPs are also required to provide some first destination data for their students as part of the annual report.

Publication of results

Decisions on whether the results of a student's work are published are at the discretion of the student and supervisor. Students are advised to refer to the ESRC Research Data Policy (https://www.ukri.org/publications/esrc-research-data-policy/) that is available on the ESRC website.

ESRC-funded students are strongly encouraged to offer copies of any machine-readable data created or repurposed during the lifetime of the award for deposit in the UK Data Service. Further guidance on data deposit with the UK Data Service is available at https://www.ukdataservice.ac.uk/deposit-data.Published work should formally acknowledge the support of the ESRC and quote the relevant NWSSDTP Grant Number:

- Students whose funding commenced **before August 2024**, the NWSSDTP Grant Number is ES/P000665/1.

- Students whose funding commenced **after September 2024**, the NWSSDTP Grant Number is ES/Y001796/1.

Data Protection Rights and Responsibilities

If students wish to discuss any issues or queries related to their data protection rights, they should, in the first instance, get in touch with their institutional contact:

- Keele University: dpo@keele.ac.uk
- University of Lancashire: DPFOIA@lancashire.ac.uk
- Lancaster University: information-governance@lancaster.ac.uk
- University of Liverpool: legal@liverpool.ac.uk
- University of Manchester: *Details pending*

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

The NWSSDTP values and promotes equity, diversity and inclusion. The practices and procedures of the NWSSDTP are designed to provide equality of opportunity, to promote harmonious relations between colleagues and to eliminate all forms of discrimination. The five universities in the partnership are individually and collectively committed to fulfilling their obligations under the Equality Act 2010. The NWSSDTP encourages applications from individuals from all backgrounds and provides flexible in-programme support that caters for a community of researchers with diverse needs.

We recognize the need to recruit postgraduate and postdoctoral candidates from a broad applicant pool and value the benefits that attracting a diverse population of researchers can bring. This commitment is made with specific reference to a person's age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religious belief & non-belief, sex and sexual orientation.

The NWSSDTP actively encourages its researchers to consider a wide range of career choices and is supported by guidance from experts at careers and employability centres at HEIs within the partnership. The NWSSDTP is committed to providing an environment which recognises and values people's differences, maximises on the strengths that those differences bring and supports all staff and students to fulfil their potential.

Complaints Policy

The NWSSDTP is committed to operating a responsive, transparent and fair complaints process. If you would like to make a complaint about our standard of service or activities, please follow this procedure. It is important that any concerns are raised at the earliest opportunity and preferably during the funding period, although we recognise that in some circumstances this might not be possible or appropriate.

Our full complaints policy can be found on the website here: https://nwssdtp.ac.uk/contact-us/complaints-policy/ /

Section 2: Additional Funding Opportunities

Research Training Support Grant

All NWSSDTP students have access to a Research Training Support Grant (RTSG), which can be used for a number of research related purposes including conference attendance, UK fieldwork and the purchase of books or other key resources. All NWSSDTP-funded students can access this fund, including master's students and fees only students.

The process for claiming RTSG expenses can be found on the NWSSDTP Website here: https://nwssdtp.ac.uk/current-students/rtsg/ Please read this documentation carefully prior to submitting a claim. There are two deadlines per month for RTSG Claims to be submitted. These are the 15th and 28th of the month, or the next working day.

Internships

NWSSDTP students whose funding commenced **before August 2024** can apply for additional funding, and a funded studentship extension, to undertake an internship. Students are responsible for developing their own prospective internship.

Students can apply to undertake an internship during their PhD – master's students are not eligible to apply. Internships should not take place during the first three months of the PhD, and any internships taking place in the final year of the studentship must be completed at least three months prior to the original end date of the studentship.

The process for applying for internship support can be found on the NWSSDTP Website here: https://nwssdtp.ac.uk/current-students/internships/

There are three deadlines per year for Internship applications to be submitted. It is not possible to apply outside of these deadlines. It will take up to three weeks for applications to be reviewed and outcomes communicated, so please ensure applications are submitted well in advance of the planned activity.

Research in Practice Placement Scheme (RiPPS)

NWSSDTP students whose funding commenced **after September 2024** are expected to complete a three month (13 week) placement during their PhD. This may take the form of a non-academic internship with a non-HEI Partner or an academic placement (a research assistantship or a professional services project) within a university.

Students must complete this placement during their PhD – master's students are not eligible. Internships should not take place during the first three months of the PhD. All studentships commencing after September 2024 already include three months' funding intended to support this placement period. **Any students who do not complete a three month placement within the first three years of their PhD will have their studentships shortened by three months accordingly.**

More information about the RiPPS requirements can be found on the NWSSDTP Website here: https://nwssdtp.ac.uk/ripps

Overseas Institutional Visits

All NWSSDTP students can apply for additional funding, and a funded studentship extension, to undertake an Overseas Institutional Visit (OIV).

NWSSDTP-funded students can apply to undertake an OIV during their PhD – master's students are not eligible to apply. OIVs should not take place during the first three months of the PhD, and any OIVs taking place in the final year of the studentship must be completed at least three months prior to the original end date of the studentship.

The process for applying for OIV support can be found on the NWSSDTP Website here: https://nwssdtp.ac.uk/current-students/oiv/

There are three deadlines per year for OIV applications to be submitted. It is not possible to apply outside of these deadlines. It will take up to three weeks for applications to be reviewed and outcomes communicated, so please ensure applications are submitted well in advance of the planned activity.

UK and Overseas Fieldwork Fund

All NWSSDTP students can apply for additional funding to support UK and Overseas Fieldwork trips in support of their doctoral research.

NWSSDTP-funded students can apply to this fund for fieldwork taking place during their PhD. Master's students are not eligible to receive fieldwork funding during their master's programme but can submit an application during this time in preparation for fieldwork during their PhD. Fieldwork should not be undertaken in the last three months of the studentship.

The process for applying for OSFW support can be found on the NWSSDTP Website here: https://nwssdtp.ac.uk/current-students/osfw/

There are three deadlines per year for fieldwork applications to be submitted. It is not possible to apply outside of these deadlines. It will take up to three weeks for applications to be reviewed and outcomes communicated, so please ensure applications are submitted well in advance of the planned activity.

Difficult Language Training (DLT)

All NWSSDTP students who require additional language training in order to complete their fieldwork and/or their research can apply for an extension to their award to allow them time to undertake this training. This will often be undertaken during their fieldwork period.

The process for applying for DLT support can be found on the NWSSDTP Website here: https://nwssdtp.ac.uk/current-students/osfw/

There are three deadlines per year for DLT Applications to be submitted. It is not possible to apply outside of these deadlines. It will take up to three weeks for applications to be reviewed and outcomes communicated, so please ensure applications are submitted well in advance of the planned activity.

UKRI Policy Internship Scheme

In addition to NWSSDTP students being able to propose their own internships through the DTP, there is also an annual UKRI Policy Internship Scheme open to ESRC-funded students. UKRI Policy Internships count towards the RiPPS requirement for a placement for students whose funding commenced after September 2024. Details of the scheme can be found here: https://www.ukri.org/publications/ukri-policy-internships/.

Section 3: Training Opportunities

Methods North West

Methods North West is a methodological training scheme, which has developed out of the ESRC North West doctoral training collaboration. It highlights the depth and breadth of methodological expertise in the social sciences within the universities of Keele, Lancashire, Lancaster, Liverpool and Manchester. It promotes and facilitates methodological excellence, innovation and interdisciplinarity – within and beyond the social sciences. Details of upcoming events can be found on the Methods North West Events webpage: https://www.methodsnorthwest.ac.uk/ and further information is on the NWSSDTP website: https://nwssdtp.ac.uk/about/methods-north-west/

Methods North West, led by the University of Manchester, is a collaboration between the methodological training schemes for the five NWSSDTP universities:

- ***methods@manchester***

http://www.methods.manchester.ac.uk/

methods@manchester is a faculty funded initiative, which aims to highlight Manchester's strength in research methods in the social sciences, promote interdisciplinary and innovative methodological developments and foster further developments, including training, through external funding.

- ***engage@liverpool***

https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/engage/

engage@liverpool is a cross-faculty research and methods initiative at the University of Liverpool. Interdisciplinary in character, it supports research across the social sciences, the arts and humanities and the natural, life and formal sciences by stimulating, encouraging, and promoting excellence and innovation in the area of research methods and methodology in particular.

- ***methods@lancaster***

https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/methods-lancaster/

methods@lancaster is the home of multi-disciplinary research at Lancaster University. It provides a hub for research and collaboration, bringing together the many diverse networks from across the university, showcasing the breadth of research, and providing opportunities to learn, share, collaborate and explore new and interesting opportunities both at Lancaster, and across the North West.

- ***links@keele***

www.keele.ac.uk/links

links@keele will provide specialist research methods courses for postgraduate students, postdoctoral researchers and university staff. *links@keele* promotes interdisciplinary and innovative developments in research methods and will facilitate, host and promote cross-faculty methods-related events. The ethos of *links@keele* is to foster interdisciplinary dialogue around innovation and imagination in approaches to high-impact research and to stimulate non-academic collaborations, widening participation and regional engagement.

- ***Methods@Lancashire***

Methods@Lancashire

Methods@Lancashire is a cross-university hub that provides specialist research methods training for postgraduate students, postdoctoral researchers, and university staff. The scheme aims to promote methodological excellence and innovation in research, research methods and methodology. The ethos of Methods@Lancashire is to foster an interdisciplinary dialogue in approaches to high-quality impactful research; encourage non-academic collaborations, widening participation and regional engagement; and to create events that bring together different researchers from a range of disciplines to share ideas, learn, collaborate, explore novel methodological approaches, and showcase the breadth of social science research.

National Centre for Research Methods (NCRM)

The NCRM is is a focal point for national research and training activities in social science research methods. Information about upcoming training and events can be found here: https://www.ncrm.ac.uk/training/

Research Capability Hub

The Research Capability Hub (RCH) brings together research training, resources and development opportunities for the UK social science community. It is designed to make it easier for researchers and learners to find relevant support, for providers to share their provision, and for partners to work together on emerging training needs. The hub can be found here: https://rch.ac.uk/en

Joint Events with the AHRC NWCDTP

The NWSSDTP works closely with the AHRC-funded North West Consortium Doctoral Training Partnership (NWCDTP). We offer joint opportunities and events, in cross-cutting key areas such as impact and employability. Students will be notified of these opportunities via the monthly NWSSDTP newsletter.

Section 4: Expectations of NWSSDTP Studentship Holders

Development Needs Analysis (DNA)

All NWSSDTP-funded students are expected to undertake an annual Development Needs Analysis (DNA) process, during both their master's and PhD programmes. Reminders will be sent when it is time to complete the DNA form. The completion of this form is a requirement of NWSSDTP funding. Further details can be found here: https://nwssdtp.ac.uk/current-students/dna/

The purpose of the DNA Process is twofold:

1) It is a mechanism by which individual students can assess and monitor their training needs, and identify training opportunities, in liaison with their supervisors.

2) The results of the DNA process will be reviewed by NWSSDTP Training, Employability and Knowledge Exchange Panel to identify recurring training needs across the cohort, and thus tailor and expand DTP activities in line with student requirements.

The NWSSDTP Training Catalogue is tailored around the DNA Form and each section has a corresponding webpage compiling training opportunities which may be of interest to students who identify a need for further development in that area.

NWSSDTP Week and Induction

Each year, during the November, the NWSSDTP organises a week-long programme of events for its students. This programme includes compulsory induction sessions for new starters and serves as a chance to learn more about the opportunities and expectations of being a NWSSDTP-funded student, as well meeting the team behind the NWSSDTP, and networking with postgraduate students from across the DTP.

There are also a number of sessions targeted at continuing students, including our annual Impact event (joint with the AHRC NWCDTP) and sessions on post-PhD possibilities. Further details can be found here: https://nwssdtp.ac.uk/current-students/nwssdtp-week/

Attendance at the induction sessions on the Monday of the NWSSDTP Week is mandatory for new NWSSDTP-funded students when they commence their studentships. Any master's students who cannot attend at the outset of their master's + PhD award due to clashes with their classes will be expected to attend the following year, when they commence their PhD.

Section 5: Key Contacts

Institutional Administrative Contacts and Academic Leads

Each institution within the NWSSDTP has its own administrative contacts and academic leads. The institutional administrative contact should be contacted with any queries about institutional-specific matters (e.g. annual progression or university policies), or about maintenance stipend or fees payments, as these are handled locally.

- ***Keele University***

Administrative Contact: Donna Bailey

Academic Institutional Lead: Professor Kate Cushing

- ***University of Lancashire***

Administrative Contact: Clare Altham

Academic Institutional Lead: Dr Emily Cooper

- ***Lancaster University***

Administrative Contact: Alex Macpherson

Academic Institutional Lead: Professor Céu Mateus

- ***University of Liverpool***

Administrative Contact: Julie McColl

Academic Institutional Lead: Professor Katia Balabanova

- ***University of Manchester***

Administrative Contact: Carole Douguedroit-Arrowsmith

Academic Institutional Lead: Professor Admos Chimhowu

NWSSDTP Office

The University of Liverpool leads on the management and administration of the consortium, and the central NWSSDTP office is based at Liverpool.

The NWSSDTP team are:

NWSSSDTP Director: Dr Laura Radcliffe

NWSSDTP Deputy Director: Professor Bethan Evans

NWSSDTP Manager: Hayley Meloy

NWSSDTP Coordinator: Julie McColl

NWSSDTP Placement Coordinator: Amy Connolly

NWSSDTP Administrator: Sarah Elsdon

Queries about RTSG, additional funding competitions, events and ESRC / NWSSDTP policy should be directed to the NWSSDTP Office at nwssdtp@liverpool.ac.uk. Queries about the Research in Practice Placement Scheme should be directed to ripps@liverpool.ac.uk.

Pathway Representatives

Each subject Pathway has an academic Pathway Representative at each institution involved in the pathway. One of these Institutional Pathway Representatives will also act as the overall Pathway Lead, representing the pathway at allocation committees and pathway forums. A full up-to-date list of Pathway Representatives, including details of the overall Pathway Lead, can be found here: https://nwssdtp.ac.uk/about/pathway-leads/