

Applicant Guidance: PhD Studentships in Linked Administrative Data



FUNDING OPPORTUNITY SUMMARY

ADR UK is offering new funding for [ESRC Doctoral Training Partnerships \(DTP\)](#) to host PhD studentships focused on quantitative research using linked administrative data.

Funding will be available for up to 20 PhD studentships located anywhere in the UK, starting in October 2023. The cohort of supervisors and the students selected will join a pilot programme to develop exemplar case studies to promote wider use of administrative data for research.

As part of the call documents, ADR UK is providing a brochure to showcase flagship linked administrative datasets from across all four UK nations covering family and criminal justice, education, employment, and more. The brochure contains information about the data, its research potential, and any other supporting materials such as synthetic data, training opportunities, and user networks. Studentships that plan to use one of ADR UK's flagship datasets will be prioritised.

ADR UK will host an applicant webinar on 20 September 2022, which will include more information on the application process, as well as an opportunity for Q&A with prospective applicants. Registration is open via [Eventbrite](#).

ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS:

- Applications must be coordinated and submitted by the DTP Director on behalf of the partnership.
- DTPs can apply for *up to* four supervisor-led PhD studentships each.
- Individual supervisors can apply for multiple studentships; however, each application must address different research topics and/or questions. As applications must be submitted through the DTP director (listed [here](#)), supervisors must consult with their DTP director to ensure the DTP does not exceed the maximum total of four applications across its partnership.
- Studentships must make use of administrative data. Applications that plan to use one of ADR UK's flagship datasets will be prioritised.
- Studentships must be based on accredited pathways relevant to the subject area covered by the administrative dataset(s) expected to be accessed through this opportunity.
- Funded students will be the responsibility of the ESRC DTP and subject to the same Terms and Conditions as students funded directly by ESRC.
- The cohort of successful students is expected to start at the beginning of the 2023/24 academic year.

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ELIGIBLE COSTS

Total funds available for this call will be approximately £1.9M between 2023 and 2028.

Studentships can be held on a range of different structures i.e., a 1+3 (Masters followed by a PhD), +3 (PhD only) or 4-year (integrated training programme) basis. The actual length of studentships will depend on the structures available on the pathway and on the student's prior training.

Funding will be provided on the basis of the notional cost of a studentship and the proposed duration of the studentships. Eligible costs also include enhanced stipend of £1000 per student per year, in addition to a 3-month placement.

ADR UK expects to be able to fully fund 20 studentships, but the DTP could co-fund the studentships through their existing allocation or other sources. Although co-funding is not necessary, it may be viewed as an indication of the commitment of the DTP/other institutions involved. Please contact us at hub@adruk.org to discuss options for co-funding.

ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Assessments and funding decisions will be made by a specially convened panel which will include a former DTP director, experts in administrative data, and representatives from the ADR UK partnership.

This Panel will consider each application package as a whole – taking into account information provided by the DTP and supervisor(s) – against the following criteria:

- Fit to the call, including:
 - alignment to the [ADR UK mission](#) to enable vital research that realises the potential of administrative data to lead to better informed policy decisions and more effective public services across various disciplines.
 - alignment to the [ADR UK Training & Capacity Building strategy](#) to support researchers trained to analyse complex linked administrative datasets
- The quality of the research environment and training provision
- Supervisory arrangements, including supervisor expertise and capacity to host studentship focused on quantitative research using linked administrative data.
- The student recruitment process including the approach to attracting candidates from under-represented groups
- Plans for contributing to the growing community of administrative data researchers

Funding decisions are expected to be communicated before the end of the 2022 calendar year.

APPLICATION PROCESS AND DOCUMENTS

DTPs can apply for up to a total of four supervisor-led studentship opportunities each across their partnership and are responsible for coordinating the application process. A completed application package consists of two sets of forms:

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Form	Who is filling it in?	Notes
A	DTP coordinating the application process	Each DTP to complete one Form A Information to be provided includes DTP's current strengths in quantitative research, analysis, and training; existing experiences using administrative data; rationale for hosting studentships using linked administrative data; student recruitment process; and how studentships contribute to the growing community of administrative data researchers.
B	Supervisor hosting the studentship	One Form B to be completed for <u>each</u> studentship opportunity Individual supervisors can apply for multiple studentships as long as the total number of supervisor-led PhD studentship applications across their respective DTP partnership does not exceed four. Information to be provided includes prior experiences supervising PhD students; supervisory capabilities using linked administrative data; areas for training for supervisor, the prospective student, or both; and desired datasets* and how they will (each) complement research topics and/or questions.

* Note: while supervisors are welcome to host studentships using any research-ready administrative dataset, those that plan to use one of ADR UK's flagship datasets (as included in the accompanying brochure) will be prioritised.

INDICATIVE TIMETABLE

- 20 September 2022 (11:00 AM UK time) – Applicant webinar (optional). Register [here](#).
- 21 October 2022 (4:00 PM UK time) – Application deadline. DTPs to submit a completed package to ADR UK via e-mail to hub@adruk.org.
- October-November 2022 – Independent Panel review stage.
- Late November 2022 – Panel meeting day to make collective funding decisions.
- End of 2022 calendar year – Funding decisions expected to be communicated to DTPs.
- October 2023 – Studentships commence (unless agreed otherwise).