

NCRM Placement Fellowship

“Social Research Academic Advisor: Improving young driver safety” (Department for Transport)

Placement Specification

Background

The NCRM Placement Fellowships aim to place academic social scientists in non-academic research organisations (e.g. central, local or devolved government department, or third sector organisation) to work on well-defined methodological research problems identified by the non-academic organisation for periods lasting between three and six months. The Placement scheme will run between July 2017 and June 2019.

NCRM are working with the policy units at Southampton, Manchester, and Edinburgh universities and in conjunction with non-academic partner organisations to develop *pre-specified placements*. These placements are defined around a problem area, set out a person specification and specify expected outputs and timetable.

Details of the placement opportunity

NCRM is delighted to launch the placement scheme with a placement fellowship in collaboration with the **Department for Transport** (DfT). DfT is looking for an expert advisor in social science who will work closely with the road safety policy team, applying their expert knowledge of evaluation and quantitative methodologies to help DfT develop policies which can improve the safety of young drivers.

The expert advisor’s two main tasks will be:

- (1) to provide an independent in-depth review of the efficacy of proposed evaluation methodologies and outcome measures being developed as part of recently commissioned work to design, deliver and evaluate the impact of five interventions designed to improve young and novice driver safety; and
- (2) conducting analysis of data on large numbers of novice drivers gathered via the Driver and Vehicle Standard Agency’s (DVSA) practical driving test booking system to explore how both demographics and structural factors, such as the location of the test centre and the test centre’s waiting times, influence when people book their driving test and whether they then subsequently adjust their booking earlier or later.

Start date and duration

The approximate start date for this placement is mid-August 2017. This is a FOUR month part time placement (approximately 2 days per week), with a small amount (1 day every two months – flexible) of continuing expert advisor/peer review involvement lasting 2-3 years.

Eligibility

The placement is open to academic staff at all levels, from Early Career Researchers through to senior Professors. Academics from any University in the UK are eligible under this scheme.

Eligible Costs

Funds provided under the placement scheme will cover directly incurred (DI) replacement salary costs and reasonable travel costs (at 80% Full Economic Costs) only.

Reporting

The successful applicant will be required to prepare a final report highlighting the outcomes of their placement, including an expenditure statement no later than three months after the end of the placement. Any publications or promotional material must acknowledge the support of NCRM.

Review

Applications will be reviewed by the NCRM Research Directorate and representatives of DfT, and will be assessed against the following criteria:

- The applicant has relevant experience and is a good fit with the person specification
- The budget requested is fully justified and reasonable.

How to apply

Applicants should refer to the [Role and Person Specification](#) before submitting an application.

Applicants for this placement opportunity should complete the [Application Form](#) and send it, along with the supporting documentation requested, to Penny White, Research Co-ordinator at NCRM (P.C.White@southampton.ac.uk). Applications must be submitted by **16:30 on 29 June 2017**.

Queries can be directed to either Alexandra Frosch, Centre Manager at NCRM (A.S.Frosch@soton.ac.uk) or Julie Cantalou, Senior Policy Manager at Public Policy|Southampton (j.cantalou@soton.ac.uk).