

iSPER - Funding Bulletin – December 2016



Welcome to the sixth edition of the Institute for Social, Policy and Enterprise Research (iSPER) funding bulletin which has been released a little early this month on account of the festive period. The bulletin includes a large number of [new opportunities from specialist funders](#) as well as health-related social science funding calls from the [Wellcome Trust](#) and [Medical Research Council](#) (working with the ESRC).

In terms of forthcoming opportunities there is news on a new funding round for the [Independent Social Research Foundation](#), a public benefit foundation dedicated to the promotion of interdisciplinary research in the social sciences. Like the [Leverhulme Trust](#) opportunity, which is also due to be released in January, this is a fellowship for Early Career Researchers. In addition, there are a number of [research awards and prizes](#) the deadlines for which are in the early part of next year.

If you are interested in pursuing any of the funding opportunities listed then please do get in touch with us via FOBResearch@plymouth.ac.uk

As ever, guidance on managing your own funding searches can be found by [clicking here](#).

Further information about iSPER can be found on the institute's section of the iSPER website by [clicking here](#). You can also now follow iSPER on twitter: [@isperplym](#)

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Global Challenges Research Fund Event at Plymouth – Friday 10th February 2017

Research staff and students from across the University of Plymouth are invited to attend this event focussed on the **Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF)** – which, as noted in earlier bulletins, is a £1.5billion five-year programme providing interdisciplinary research funding to address the challenges faced by developing countries.

Professor Tim Wheeler, Director of Science and Innovation at the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), will be providing the keynote presentation. In this interactive event, University researchers and research students will be encouraged to explore how their interests and connections align with the GCRF priority challenge areas; developing supported interdisciplinary networks that will connect and collaborate on these areas, both across and beyond the University, going forward.

To find out more and book a place please [click here](#).

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New Live Opportunities

Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)

UK in a Changing Europe – Brexit Priority Grants

For further information [click here](#)

Scheme Opens:	December 2016 (anticipated)
Value:	Between £100,000 and £300,000 (ESRC contributing 80% of FEC)
Duration:	Up to 18 months
Application Deadline:	25 th January 2017 (4.00 pm)
Anticipated Award Start Date:	1 st April 2017

The ESRC is inviting proposals from leading researchers for Brexit Priority Grants as part of the ESRC's UK in a Changing Europe initiative. These are to support a range of activities including research synthesis, user engagement and new short-term research activity related to the process of the UK leaving the European Union.

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Medical Research Council

Health Systems Research Initiative Call 4

For more information [click here](#)

Value:	Not specified
Application Deadline:	24 th January 2017 (4.00 pm) for initial proposal. Full proposal to be submitted in June 2017.

The Department of International Development (DFID), the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), the Medical Research Council (MRC) and the Wellcome Trust (WT) jointly fund the Health Systems Research Initiative. For this call innovative proposals are sought from across the public health, social and biomedical sciences and must clearly identify what health system challenge is being addressed. Proposals must situate this clearly-defined challenge within an understanding of the broader health system linkages and describe how and why findings from the project have the potential to improve the health of people living in low and middle-income countries.

All potential applicants are encouraged to attend a webinar providing guidance on this call. A webinar is currently scheduled for Thursday 5th January 2017.

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Wellcome Trust

Details of the Wellcome Trust's first 2017 round were initially included in the August edition of this bulletin however they have been inputted here to serve as a reminder given the deadlines for preliminary applications are coming up.

Collaborative awards in humanities and social science

For more information [click here](#)

Value: £1 million to £1.5 million

Duration: Up to five years

Preliminary Application Deadline: 16 January 2017

Full Application Deadline: 20 March 2017

These awards fund teams with a track record of working together to tackle major health-related questions in the humanities and social sciences that require a collaborative approach. The intention is to promote the development of new ideas and bring disciplines together to speed the pace of discovery. Support includes:

- research expenses, including research assistance or PhDs
- research or teaching buy-out leave
- conference and meeting costs

Interdisciplinary collaborations which combine the humanities and social sciences with biomedical science or product development are encouraged. Collaborations may be international, and may exist across a university or spanning a number of institutions.

Investigator awards in humanities and social sciences

For more information [click here](#)

Value: £300,000 to £1million

Duration: Up to five years

Preliminary Application Deadline: 16 January 2017

Full Application Deadline: 20 March 2017

These provide funding for researchers in established posts at all career stages working on important questions of relevance to health. Awards may be used to cover research expenses, materials and consumables, equipment, and travel and subsistence costs. Two researchers working together may apply jointly.

Research fellowships in humanities and social science

For more information [click here](#)

Value: Variable – provides a basic salary, research expenses, materials and consumables, equipment, and travel and subsistence.

Duration: Up to three years

Preliminary Application Deadline: 18 January 2017

Full Application Deadline: 22 March 2017

This scheme supports humanities researchers and social scientists who want to explore areas of health but do not hold established academic posts. Candidates should have a sponsor who should hold an established post and be in a position to guarantee space and facilities for the full period of the fellowship.

University awards in humanities and social scienceFor more information [click here](#)

Value:	Variable - provides a full salary for three years, 50 per cent in the fourth year and 25 per cent in the fifth year. Awards also support research expenses, materials and consumables, animals, equipment, and travel and subsistence costs.
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Duration:	Up to five years
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Preliminary Application Deadline:	18 January 2017
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Full Application Deadline:	22 March 2017
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University Awards provide support for up to five years at lecturer, senior-lecturer or reader level. The applicant is expected to have a PhD or equivalent experience, and have built up a competitive track record in a relevant area of research. Applicants must be nominated by their prospective head of department and the head of the academic organisation must be able to guarantee a permanent academic position at the end of the award.

Humanities and social science doctoral studentshipsFor more information [click here](#)

Value:	Covers student's stipend, approved tuition fees, travel to meetings and conferences (up to £1,500) and equipment and research experiences (up to £1,500)
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Duration:	Usually 3 Years
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Application Deadline:	22 March 2017
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These enable researchers to undertake a humanities or social science doctoral degree in any area of health. Applicants should hold or expect to hold a relevant master's degree and should not already be registered for a research degree, or have received support from another funding body.

Seed Awards in Humanities and Social ScienceFor more information [click here](#)

Value:	Usually £25,000 to £50,000, but up to £100,000 for themed rounds
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Duration:	6 to 12 months
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Application Deadline:	16 th March 2017
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Research may fall under any field of humanities and social science that enriches the understanding of human and animal health. Eligible activities include pilot and scoping studies, planning sessions and meetings of collaborative networks. For the forthcoming deadline only projects which explore the theme of sexuality and health will be considered.

[Back to top](#)**Other Funders****Council for British Research in the Levant Travel Grants**For more information [click here](#)

Funder:	Council for British Research in the Levant
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Value:	Up to £800
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Application Deadline:	15 th January 2017
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These enable individuals to undertake humanities and social sciences research at undergraduate, postgraduate or postdoctoral level in the countries of the Levant. Grants are worth up to £800 each to cover direct costs of travel and maintenance.

Digital Catapult Researcher in Residence Programme

For more information [click here](#)

Funder:	Research Councils UK and the Digital Catapult Centre
Value:	Up to £25,000 to cover expenses including travel and accommodation
Application Deadline:	8 th January 2017

Digital Catapult and the RCUK Digital Economy (DE) Theme is now accepting applications for the Researchers in Residence Programme, to be hosted at the Digital Catapult Centre in London or at one of the local centres (Northern Ireland, Yorkshire, Brighton and North East & Tees Valley). This is open to those with a contract of employment at a UK university, or PhD students who have submitted their thesis by the closing date, Sunday 8 January 2017.

Invention Projects Grants

For more information [click here](#)

Funder:	ELRHA Humanitarian Innovation Fund
Value:	Up to £50,000
Application Deadline:	None

These support organisations and individuals who are developing a creative solution or novel idea, which helps address a problem or seize an opportunity in the delivery of effective humanitarian aid. At least one of the partner organisations applying must be able to demonstrate experience working in humanitarian response.

Pro-active Grants

For more information [click here](#)

Funder:	Institute of Chartered Accountants Scotland
Value:	Not specified
Application Deadline:	Not specified

Supports research of public interest that is relevant for the institute's policy themes and positions and has an impact on the accountancy profession or business in an international or UK context. The goal is to promote evidence-based policy making and therefore support the development of policy. Researchers and institutions anywhere in the world can apply.

Research for Understanding, Mitigating and Countering Security Threats

For more information [click here](#)

Funder:	Centre for Research and Evidence on Security Threats (CREST)
Value:	Not specified but indicative costs range from £62,500 for short projects (100% FEC) to £125,000 for long projects (100% FEC). 80% of FEC is funded by the programme.
Application Deadline:	31 st January 2017

This programme supports innovative and forward-looking economic, behavioural and social science research that will contribute to our understanding of contemporary security threats, or research that enhances the UK's capacity to detect and mitigate such threats.

Society of Libyan Studies Research Grants	
For further information click here	
Funder:	Society for Libyan Studies
Value:	Up to £7,500
Application Deadline:	13 th January 2017
<p>The Society for Libyan Studies offers a number of grants for research projects within its current scheme: '<i>Social and Cultural Interactions Across North Africa</i>'. All projects should, in some way, have a relation to Libya as well as other countries within the region (Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Niger, Mali, Chad, Sudan); interactions with Malta and Crete and other regions of Southern Europe will also be considered.</p> <p>Please note: it is anticipated that next year there will be two further rounds of grants, with deadlines at the ends of July and November, 2017.</p>	

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Funding for PGR Students

PhD Student Grants	
For more information click here	
Funder:	Allan & Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trust
Value:	Up to £4000
Application Deadline:	None
<p>The Allan & Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trust invites applications for its PhD student grants. These grants are for PhD students to help meet tuition costs in the last year of their PhD studies</p>	

Small Grants (for PhDs and Masters)	
For more information click here	
Funder:	Parkes Foundation
Value:	Usually £800 but can be up to £1500 in very special circumstances.
Application Deadline:	9 th January 2017
<p>Small grants to help Masters and PhD students conduct research into the biosocial sciences. The Fund aims to promote the study of biological and social topics with the emphasis on human biosocial projects. The Foundation supports studies falling in the areas of reproduction, demography, fertility, human health, conservation and human genetics.</p>	

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Selected Live Opportunities from the Previous Bulletins (still open)

Please note: as these opportunities have been open for some time, some of them will have impending deadlines.

Arts and Humanities Research Council

GCRF Area-Focused Network Plus Call	
For further information click here	
Value:	£1.5-2 million
Duration:	Up to 4 Years
Application Deadline:	Expression of Interest Stage: 18 th January 2017 (4.00 pm)

	Full Application Stage: May 2017
<p>As part of the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF), this call will support multidisciplinary and internationally collaborative programmes of activity rooted in the arts and humanities that take a place-based approach to addressing global development challenges. Projects will focus on addressing a number of interconnected development challenges within the specific context of a cluster of countries, regions or 'areas'. Projects are expected to work extensively with research and stakeholder organisations in partner countries and with wider potential partners such as NGOs, policy bodies, business, third sector and community organisations in the development and dissemination of the research. It is expected that a total of five awards will be made.</p>	

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British Academy

APEX Awards	
For further information click here	
Funders:	British Academy, the Royal Academy of Engineering and the Royal Society and the Leverhulme Trust
Value:	Up to £100,000 (for staff costs – no more than 25% of this may be used for associated research costs)
Duration:	Up to 24 months
Application Deadline:	13 th January 2017
Award Start Date:	1 st September to 1 st November 2017
<p>This scheme offers established independent researchers, with a strong track record in their respective area, an exciting opportunity to pursue genuine interdisciplinary and curiosity-driven research to benefit wider society. A key priority is to promote collaboration between science and engineering and the social sciences and humanities.</p>	

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Economic and Social Research Council

ESRC/ DFID Development Frontiers Research Fund – Call 2	
For further information click here	
Value:	80% of full economic cost ranging from: £160,000 (where FEC is £200,000) to £240,000 (FEC is £300,000)
Duration:	Up to 18 months
Application Deadline:	26 th January 2017 (4pm)
Earliest Award Start Date:	1 st September 2017
Award End Date:	No later than 31 st March 2019
<p>The ESRC and the Department for International Development are looking to fund innovative, strategic and catalytic research that offers new ways to tackle the challenges encountered at the intersections between sustainability, poverty and conflict/fragility in specific geographic contexts. These details have recently been released by the funders to allow interested researchers to begin discussions with potential research partners and research users in advance of the formal call for proposals.</p>	

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Government Contracts

Government departments, alongside other public bodies, regularly release invitations to tender for specific research projects, often with short turnaround times for the receipt of applications.

DfID - Cities and Infrastructure for Growth

For further information [click here](#)

Funder:	Department for International Development
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Value:	Not specified (open tender)
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Duration of Contract:	60 months
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Application Deadline:	Expressions of Interest: 16 th December 2016 (5.00pm)
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Project Start Date:	4 th June 2017
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The Department for International Development invites expressions of interest for its cities and infrastructure for growth programme. This aims to deliver outcomes in DFID focus countries in sub-Saharan and south Asia in terms of:

- creating productive cities;
- improving access to reliable and affordable power;
- increased investment into infrastructure services.

DfID - Tackling Deadly Diseases in Africa Programme (TDDAP)

For further information [click here](#)

Funder:	Department for International Development
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Value:	Not specified (open tender)
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Duration of Contract:	60 months
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Application Deadline:	16th December 2016 (2.00 pm)
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Project Start Date:	20 th December 2016
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The Department for International Development invites tenders for its tackling deadly diseases in Africa programme. The tenderer will address a number of challenges that limit the effectiveness of responses to outbreaks of diseases like Ebola, Zika and yellow fever, with a particular emphasis on activities that support malaria prevention and eradication. Approaches to improve governance and accountability to ensure that governments and health institutions do what is required for citizens will also be supported.

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Horizon 2020

European Research Council – Consolidator Grants 2017

For further information on the fund [click here](#). For access to the funding portal [click here](#).

Value:	Up to €2million
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Duration:	Up to five years
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Application Deadline:	9 February 2017
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These awards are designed to help young principal investigators consolidate their independence. Applicants must have 7-12 years of experience since completing their PhD, a scientific track record showing significant talent and an excellent research proposal. The grant covers up to 100% of total eligible direct costs of the research plus a contribution of 25% towards indirect costs. An additional

€0.75 million (on top of the €2m) is also available to cover start-up costs for researchers coming from a third country.

Horizon 2020 - Societal Challenges - Climate Action, Environment, Resource Efficiency and Raw Materials – Greening the Economy Call

For further information [click here](#)

Value:	Not specified
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Application Deadline:	7 th March 2017 (5.00pm – Brussels time)
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The objective of the Societal Challenge 'Climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials' is to achieve a resource – and water – efficient and climate change resilient economy and society, the protection and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems, and a sustainable supply and use of raw materials, in order to meet the needs of a growing global population within the sustainable limits of the planet's natural resources and eco-systems.

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Leverhulme Trust

Emeritus Fellowships

For further information [click here](#)

Value:	Up to £22,000 of research expenses
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Duration:	Between 3 months and 2 years
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Application Deadline:	2 nd February 2017 (4pm)
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Award Start Date(s):	Between 1st August 2017 and 1st July 2018
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This fund enables senior researchers who have retired from an academic post to complete a research project and prepare the results for publication. Applicants must have retired by the time of taking up the Fellowship and no longer have a normal contract of employment. However applicants may hold a part-time position of up to 0.5 FTE.

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Plymouth University Internal Funding

Pedagogic Research and Teaching Innovation (PRTI) funding call

Further details are available on the [PRTI webpage](#)

Funder:	Pedagogic Research Institute and Observatory (PEDRIO)
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Value:	Up to £10,000 is available for individual projects, but smaller bids of up to £1500 are actively encouraged.
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Application Deadline:	Monday 30th January 2017 (noon)
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PEDRIO are pleased to announce the call for proposals for the 2017-18 Pedagogic Research and Teaching Innovation Fund. This funding call invites proposals from colleagues (academic and professional services) across Plymouth University who wish to undertake pedagogic research and/or to promote innovative practice. Applications from early career researchers are particularly welcome. Applications are invited to support projects that include:

- 1) Pedagogic research and/ors
- 2) The development and evaluation of innovative teaching practice

PEDRIO recommend that applications attend the funding workshops - bookable now through iTrent; for more details <https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/whats-on/pedagogic-research-and-teaching-innovation-prti-funding-scheme> :

- Wednesday 7th December 2016 13:00 – 15:00
- Thursday 12th January 2017 13:00 – 16:00

If you would like an informal discussion about a potential project, please contact Lynne Wyness - lynne.wyness@plymouth.ac.uk or 01752 58762

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Forthcoming Opportunities

The following are a number of funding opportunities which are either scheduled to emerge in the near future, or anticipated to on the basis of what we know from previous funding rounds. Please note that these details, and particularly the timescales, may be subject to change.

Arts and Humanities Research Council**GCRF - Research Networking Highlight Notice for International Development**

For further information [click here](#)

Value:	Up to £30,000
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Deadline:	28 th February 2017
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Call Opens:	Mid December 2016
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This call is for the development of research networking proposals which explore the contribution that arts and humanities research can make to challenges, policy and/or practice relating to international development. It complements other previous AHRC thematic GCRF calls including the AHRC GCRF Area-Focused Network-Plus call (see above).

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Economic and Social Research Council

Pre-call Announcement: A Multilateral Joint Call for Proposals on Transformations to Sustainability (T2S)

For further information [click here](#)

Scheme Opens:	December 2016 (anticipated)
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Value:	Not specified
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T2S is a new funding programme for international, transdisciplinary projects addressing transformations to sustainability initiated by the Belmont Forum and NORFACE network. The programme is supported by funding agencies from Belgium, Brazil, Chinese Taipei, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, the UK and the USA. More information on the participation of Norway will be available soon.

Proposals from researchers based in any of the partner countries are welcome, and should address one or more of the call themes:

- Governance and institutional dimensions of transformations to sustainability.
- Economy and finance of transformations to sustainability.
- Wellbeing, quality of life, identity, and social and cultural values in relation to transformations to sustainability.

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Independent Social Research Foundation

As noted above the Independent Social Research Foundation (ISRF) is a public benefit foundation dedicated cross-fertilisation in the social sciences, the promotion of new modes of inquiry and the development of interdisciplinary expertise and methods. ISRF funding is awarded competitively through a series of grant competitions – for Early and Mid-Career Researchers, Independent Scholars, and for Small Groups.

Early Career Fellowships

For further information [click here](#)

Value:	Up to £50,000
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Duration:	Up to 12 months
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Scheme Opens:	23 rd January 2017
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Application Deadline:	3 rd March 2017 (4.00 pm)
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These fellowship are aimed at supporting independent-minded researchers to explore and present original research ideas which take new approaches, and suggest new solutions, to real world social problems. The awards are intended as providing full relief from all teaching duties and all associated academic administration for a period of up to one year, and must be taken up no later than end of December 2018.

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Leverhulme Trust**Early Career Fellowships**

For further information [click here](#)

Value:	50% of a Fellow's salary costs up to a maximum of £24,000 per annum. The Fellow may also request annual research expenses of up to £6000.
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Duration:	3 Years
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Scheme Opens:	1 st January 2017
Application Deadline:	2 nd March 2017 (4pm)
Award Start Date(s):	1 st September 2017 to 1 st May 2018
The scheme enables early career researchers to undertake a significant piece of publishable work. Applicants must have a track record of research, but should not have held an established academic appointment in the UK. Approximately 100 Fellowships will be available in 2017.	

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Research Awards and Prizes

BSA/BBC Ethnography Prize

For more information [click here](#)

Funder:	British Sociological Association and British Broadcasting Corporation
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Value:	£1000
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Application Deadline:	15 th January 2017
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This award recognises the best research study that has made a significant contribution to ethnography. Entries should be qualitative research projects which detail a description of the practices of a group or culture.

Jean Blondel Prize

For more information [click here](#)

Funder:	European Consortium for Political Research
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Value:	€1000
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Application Deadline:	2 nd February 2017
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This prize is for the best thesis in the field of political science and political thought. The consortium covers expenses to attend the prize-giving at the consortium's joint sessions of workshops, including travel and accommodation for up to two nights.

Leigh Douglas Memorial Prize

For more information [click here](#)

Funder:	British Society for Middle Eastern Studies (BRISMES)
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Value:	£600 for first prize. Runner-up receives £150
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Application Deadline:	31 st January 2017
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This recognises the best PhD dissertation on a Middle Eastern topic in the social sciences or humanities.

Stein Rokkan Prize in Comparative Social Science Research

For more information [click here](#)

Funder:	European Consortium for Political Research
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Value:	US \$5000
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Application Deadline:	15 th February 2017
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This recognises the best work deemed to be a substantial and original contribution to comparative social science research.

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