**ESRC Overseas Institutional Visits (OIVs) Scheme Guidelines**

**Purpose of the OIV Scheme**

ESRC introduced the OIV Scheme in 2002, to support and encourage the international engagement of ESRC funded students. The Scheme funds an extension to the studentship of up to three months plus travel and subsistence costs.

Funds will be used to provide financial support and time for students to:

* undertake additional specialist research training not available in the UK.
* develop language skills.
* establish research links that will be beneficial to their current or future academic career.
* disseminate early research findings.
* attend and participate in seminars where directly relevant to their research.

**Basic Criteria**

* Applications must be student-led.
* Visits must be related to the completion of the student’s PhD and should not commence within the first three months of the studentship period. Visits taking place in the final year of the studentship must be completed at least three months before the end date of the award and prior to the extension period being implemented.
* Applicants must be from ‘research’ award holders in the +3 component of their studentship. Students in the initial ‘training’ year of a 1+3 award are not eligible.
* The purpose of the visits funded must not be for overseas fieldwork as this is supported through other mechanisms.
* Visits can last for up to a maximum of 13 weeks, although the SCDTP may provide flexibility due to the needs of the student.
* Visits must involve visiting a Higher Education institution, or an organisation with a substantive research outside of the UK.
* Visits must not be undertaken if the Foreign and Commonwealth Office advises against visiting the country concerned;

**Application Process**

All potential applicants should make themselves familiar with the scheme guidelines prior to making an application. Any questions regarding the scheme should be addressed to the SCDTP Manager ([scdtp@soton.ac.uk](mailto:scdtp@soton.ac.uk)) in the first instance.

All applications must be made on SCDTP OIV Application Form.

The SCDTP will publish calls for applications for the OIV scheme twice each academic year. The deadlines for these calls will be 31st October and 30th April each Academic Year.

Applications received from the initial call will be assessed by a nominated panel, with applicants being informed of the outcome no later than 30th November and 31st May respectively.