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EXETER

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School of Humanities & Social Sciences PhD Studentship in: ‘The Politics of Sustainable Communities.’

Applications are invited from masters students for a PhD studentship at the School of Humanities & Social Sciences, Tremough Campus. Applicants should have a qualification in Politics (or a related discipline). They should also have an interest in one or more of the themes of: sustainability, community regeneration, behaviour change, public health policy. They should be willing to work in an inter-disciplinary environment, both with academics from other disciplines, and with non-academic partners. Although not necessary, the ability to employ qualitative or quantitative research methods may be desirable.

Supervisor: [Dr Robin Durie](#)

This PhD explores fundamental issues raised in the discourses of sustainability. Underlying current concerns with sustainability as a consequence of climate change, is the more fundamental problem of the conditions that enable changes in behaviour or practice – of individuals, communities, organisations – which can lead to outcomes that are sustainable. This PhD proposal builds on work currently undertaken within the Politics Department in collaboration with the Eden Project, on the regeneration of local communities in the south-west of Cornwall. The student may elect to focus on the theoretical dimensions of this problem, or alternatively focus on the applied aspects. Either way, what we are seeking from this research is a better understanding of how best to identify from the outset those communities that need, and would benefit from, the kind of assistance pioneered in this collaborative work with Eden; the range of activities and interventions that offer the best chances of success in different contexts; and an indication of relative priorities, and the establishment of criteria by which success in the transformation to more sustainable and healthy communities might be measured.

How to apply:

The studentship will cover registration costs of £3,859 and a maintenance stipend of £13,400 per annum for three years. This studentship is open to Home/EU students only.

The successful applicant will be expected to travel to the [University of Exeter Streatham campus](#) approximately every two weeks during the first academic year. Travel expenses will be reimbursed.

Applicants should submit a formal online application for a PhD in Politics at the Tremough Campus, including two academic references and send a copy of their CV to Sarmi Ghosh (huss-pgadmissions@exeter.ac.uk) by Friday 24th July (please clearly state on your application form that you are applying for this studentship).

We intend to hold interviews for this studentship at the Tremough Campus in early August. There will be an opportunity to have a tour of the campus, a talk about postgraduate study and to meet with academic staff during the day.

For further information about this studentship please contact Dr Robin Durie r.h.durie@ex.ac.uk. For information on how to apply please contact Sarmi Ghosh on the email address above.