

Two PhD Teaching Assistantships in 1) Gender Responsive Resilience; 2) Geophysical Hazard Risks

UCL - Institute for Risk and Disaster Reduction

Qualification Type: PhD

Location: London

Funding for: UK Students, EU Students

Funding amount: £17,285 (in 2020/21) for 3.5 years

Hours: Full Time

Closes: 14 August 2020

Start: 21 September 2020

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

Applications are invited for two PhD funding opportunities to conduct research in, 1) Gender Responsive Resilience and, 2) Geophysical Hazard Risks based in the UCL Institute for Risk and Disaster Reduction, commencing in September 2020. Project descriptions are given below.

The Teaching Assistantships will be 3.5 years in duration and cover tuition fees up to the Home/EU rate, an annual stipend (£17,285 in 2020/21) and allowances for consumables and travel. The students will spend 6 months of their time teaching (spread across the 3.5 years) and devote the remainder to undertaking their research.

STUDENTSHIP INFORMATION

The UCL Institute for Risk and Disaster Reduction (IRDR) is a multi-disciplinary academic department, which leads research, knowledge exchange and advanced teaching in the areas of risk, disaster risk reduction (DRR) and humanitarian crises response. By providing a focus for UCL's DRR activities, with its breadth of disciplinary emphasis, promotion of novel multi-disciplinary research and translation into practice, the Institute aims to assume a role of leadership in DRR both in the UK and internationally. The Institute is hosted in the Faculty of Mathematical and Physical Sciences (MAPS), but operates across all UCL's faculties, spanning earth and space sciences, statistics, engineering and the built environment, social sciences and global health, as well as contributing to UCL's Grand Challenges. It has a leading role in the Humanitarian Institute. Growth of the IRDR is a strategic priority of the MAPS Faculty. The IRDR presently has 11 members of academic staff, about 12 members of research staff, 4 members of professional services staff and a population of about 25 PhD students.

Research. The IRDR has established and is developing research around several themes including gender responsive resilience and geophysical hazard risks, in the UK and internationally. Its Centre for Gender and Disaster is a recent recipient of a £5 million UKRI Collective Fund on Gender Responsive Resilience and Intersectionality in Policy and Practice (GRRIPP). The IRDR has active field, modelling and laboratory research in geophysical hazards risks including earthquakes, volcanoes, sea ice, landslides, cyclones and flooding. UCL and the IRDR have joined the UK Met Office Academic Partnership to work collaboratively to transform understanding of weather and climate science. The IRDR's Conflict and Disaster Hub has received substantial funding particularly for research on the Rohingya Exodus in Bangladesh.

Teaching. The IRDR runs two MSc programmes, in Risk Disaster and Resilience and Risk and Disaster Science, with over 40 students. It is launching an International development undergraduate programme in BSc Global Humanitarian Studies, with partners in the UCL Departments of Statistical Science and

Anthropology, the Institutes for Global Health and Education and the School of Management with a projected intake of 40 students.

Further information can be found on the IRDR departmental website.

KEY REQUIREMENTS

The principal requirements for admission to the MPhil/PhDs in the IRDR are a 1st class or high upper 2nd class bachelor's degree and a master's degree with merit or distinction in relevant disciplines. For the, 1) Gender Responsive Resilience PhD, candidates should have excellent knowledge and experience of qualitative and social science research methods and feminist theory with interests in the following areas: Gender, Peace and Conflict; Gender and Disaster; Disaster Risk Reduction; Feminist International Relations. For the, 2) Geophysical Hazard Risks PhD, candidates should have excellent knowledge and experience in quantitative methods, including modelling and programming, with an MSc/MSci in Geophysics, Physics, Engineering or related discipline and an enthusiasm for fieldwork.

The requirements for appointment as Postgraduate Teaching Assistant are detailed in the person specification below. Teaching will be across the IRDR including supporting modules in emergency and crisis management, qualitative research methods, data analysis and interpretation, computer programming and field work.

The PhD Teaching Assistantships are based in London at UCL. Candidates should be able to travel nationally and internationally for teaching and research.

HOW TO APPLY

All new candidates should apply for the Research Degree: Risk and Disaster Reduction (RRDRDRSING01) completing the online form <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/graduate/apply/> and, in addition, send a separate covering letter explaining how they meet the criteria outlined in the Postgraduate Teaching Assistant person specification (giving specific examples where possible). The covering letter should be sent to Ms Rebecca Sibley at IRDR-enquiries@ucl.ac.uk. Candidates already in receipt of an offer of admission need only send the covering letter.

Closing date: 14 August 2020

PHD STUDENTSHIP IN GENDER RESPONSIVE RESILIENCE

The IRDR Centre for Gender and Disaster (CGD) is one of two research centres in IRDR. CGD aims to develop awareness of, and responsiveness to, gender for risks and disasters, through excellence in research and teaching. The CGD has been successful in receiving a 'UKRI Collective Fund' award, called 'Gender Responsive Resilience and Intersectionality in Policy and Practice (GRRIPP) - Networking Plus Partnering for Resilience', which will be implemented in three regions, South Asia, Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC).

The studentship is part of the GRRIPP project, which aims to support the evolution of gender and intersectionality, resilience and sustainability for social transformation through establishing a new Network of Networks. The PhD candidate will work on their independent PhD project and should in their application identify their own research interest within a broad subject area of gender, conflict and disaster, specifically in the areas of gender, peace and conflict; gender and disaster; critical perspective on gender and resilience in conflict and disaster contexts; conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV);

gender and transitional justice; gendered impacts of conflict/disaster-induced displacements, focusing on one or more GRRIPP ODA countries/regions (South Asia, Africa and LAC).

The student will also contribute towards increasing the research outputs/impacts of the GRRIPP project which will include literature review and academic publications, such as journal articles, book chapters, etc.

The PhD project will be supervised by Dr Punam Yadav and Professor Maureen Fordham. The PhD candidate will have access to a wide network of people via the GRRIPP Project. Researcher development will be further supported through UCL's outstanding doctoral training programme.

GRRIPP webpage: <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/risk-disaster-reduction/research-projects/2019/nov/gripp-gender-responsive-resilience-intersectionality-policy-and-practice>

PHD STUDENTSHIP IN GEOPHYSICAL HAZARD RISKS: A geophysical approach to understanding flood hazards

Flooding, both coastal and river, is a serious hazard risk in the UK particularly areas in Southwest England and the Somerset Levels, which covers farmland and includes critical infrastructure such as the Hinkley Point nuclear power plant. The causes have been either 'extreme' rainfall or 'extreme' sea conditions resulting from severe storms. As a result, sediment inputs to the Levels from the Bristol Channel and from the surrounding hills and have driven the development of the river and tidal channel system. These together with anthropogenic factors such as artificial drainage systems, agriculture, urban development and infrastructure contribute to increased flood risk, which is likely to be exasperated by climate change.

The aim of this project is to examine flood hazard in this area using geophysical surveys, specifically the resistivity method. The purpose of electrical surveys is to determine the subsurface resistivity distribution in order to characterise old river and tidal channel systems and develop an understanding of how these have evolved through time. The data collected from the surveys will be analysed using specialised software to generate resistivity sub-surface profiles and integrated into models of flood hazard risk.

The interested student will have the opportunity to apply the developed methodology to a similar problem, but on a different scale, in Bangladesh, with the IRDR's long-term collaborators.

The PhD project will be supervised by Dr Katerina Stavrianaki (jointly appointed between the IRDR and the Department of Statistical Science). The PhD candidate will have access to a wide network of people through these departments. Researcher development will be further supported through UCL's outstanding doctoral training programme.

IRDR TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS

The Postgraduate Teaching Assistants' roles (one broadly qualitative, one broadly quantitative) will include:

- Tutorial classes in research methods and skills;
- Designing and preparing teaching material, including online materials, within the overall module frameworks for emergency and crisis management, qualitative research methods, data analysis and interpretation, computer programming and field work;

- Marking student assessments and examinations; generating and providing detailed feedback for students; tailoring feedback as needed to ensure students clearly understand what is required of them;
- Monitoring student progress, achievement and attendance, returning data to the administrative office in a timely manner;
- Undertaking weekly office hours for students;
- Supervising student projects;
- Participating in regular meetings with lecturers and teaching meetings.

The postholders will be expected:

- To actively follow and promote UCL policies, including Equal Opportunities and Safety;
- To uphold confidentiality in regards to students' records and marks;
- To engage with all training required to support the role and in the intellectual life of the IRDR.

PERSON SPECIFICATION FOR TEACHING ASSISTANTS

Criteria	Essential or Desirable
Qualifications, experience and knowledge	
Masters degree in relevant discipline	E
Knowledge of gender studies and feminist theories (Gender Responsive Resilience TA)	E
Knowledge of data analysis and interpretation (Geophysical Hazard Risks TA)	E
Knowledge of Disaster Studies	D
Knowledge of research methods, including strong knowledge and experiences in qualitative methods	E
Teaching experience at tertiary level	D
Excellent working knowledge of Mac software and the internet. The Quantitative TA will have excellent knowledge of a programming language such as R	E
Skills and abilities	
Excellent teaching ability and other forms of public presentation	E
Ability to communicate clearly, both orally and in writing, with students, academic and professional staff at all levels	E
Excellent organizational and time management skills	E
Ability to be flexible and to respond to changing priorities in a busy environment	E
Ability to work independently for short periods and as part of a team, recognising when advice / input needs to be sought	E
A high level of accuracy and a keen attention to detail	E
Ability to tutor and support UG/PG students on modules, such as research methods	E
Personal attributes	
Excellent people skills and the ability to build good relationships with colleagues and external partners	E
Commitment to contributing to the intellectual environment of the IRDR	E
Commitment to high quality teaching and fostering a positive learning environment for students	E

Commitment to UCL’s policy of equal opportunity and the ability to work harmoniously with colleagues and students of all cultures and backgrounds.	E
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