

PhD Studentship: Office Work: Transformations in Technology, Practice and Energy Demand

Sociology Department, Lancaster

Deadline: **5pm Monday 8th January 2024.**

Interviews will take place online, week commencing **15th January 2024.**

Start Date: **1st February (some flexibility)**

This is a call for applications for a three and a half year, fully funded, 'CREDS (Centre for Research into Energy Demand Solutions) Interdisciplinary Energy Demand Studentship'.

The project investigates the ways in which office technologies and office work are changing, especially in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. The research investigates emerging complexes of technology (digital and otherwise) as they become embedded in working practices and as they modify the extent and distribution of energy consumption and carbon emissions.

The aim of the project is to identify and describe the processes involved in specific settings so that insights into the details of this sociotechnical transformation can be extended to other organisations seeking to develop and adopt lower carbon ways of working.

Supervisors:

[Dr Stanley Blue](#), [Professor Elizabeth Shove](#) (Department of Sociology, Lancaster University)

Project Description:

The research will draw on theoretical resources from social theories of practice and from science and technology studies to bring fresh perspectives to bear on the digital transformation of working practices and their impact on energy demand.

A full project description is available [here](#).

This CREDS Interdisciplinary Energy Demand Studentship includes:

- Payment of tuition fees (for the duration of the studentship);
- An annual stipend (£18,622 in 2023/24. The value of the stipend may change in subsequent years: see <https://www.ukri.org/what-we-do/developing-people-and-skills/find-studentships-and-doctoral-training/get-a-studentship-to-fund-your-doctorate/>);
- Opportunities to apply for additional funding towards Overseas Institutional Visits and Internships;
- Access to a range of training and development provided by the Sociology Department, the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Lancaster University, and the North West Social Science Doctoral Training Partnership.

Person Specification:

- Candidates must have qualifications of the standard of Bachelor's degree at first or upper second class level, and must also have a suitable Master's degree or equivalent (or will have completed a Master's degree by the starting date) in social research/social science;

- Candidates will need to demonstrate that they have received rigorous training in the theoretical, philosophical, and methodological aspects of both qualitative and quantitative research;
- Candidates must satisfy the UKRI's 'home' [academic and residential eligibility requirements](#);
- Candidates will preferably have a background and academic interest in social theory – including theories of practice and/or science and technology studies and in organisations and energy demand. Knowledge of relevant academic debates will be of significant advantage.

Application Information:

Please send enquiries about the vacancy and applications by email to Stanley Blue (s.blue@lancaster.ac.uk).

Applications should be submitted through the Lancaster [Postgraduate Admissions System](#). Email s.blue@lancaster.ac.uk to confirm you have submitted your application.

Applications should include:

- A full CV, including two named referees (one of whom should be your most recent academic tutor/supervisor);
- A copy of Bachelor's degree and Master's degree transcript (or copy of equivalent qualifications);
- A letter of application (not exceeding two pages) outlining your suitability and how you would approach the research (see [project details](#));
- An example of postgraduate level written work (e.g. a research article, chapter, or essay).

The successful applicant will be required to submit a full application to study for a PhD in the Department of Sociology at Lancaster University and will need to be offered a place on the programme.