

SGSS Academic Placements Placement Information

Placement Title	Curriculum Making
Project Host contact	Prof Mark Priestley
Host team	The Stirling Centre for Research into Curriculum Making (SCRCM)
Full time/part time	Either
In person/remote/ hybrid	Hybrid
Duration	3 months (full time) or 6 months (part time)
Eligibility	This placement is open to all ESRC funded students whose funding began after October 2024. Eligible students should seek funding permission directly from their funder as required.
To apply	Please contact Mark Priestley (m.r.priestley@stir.ac.uk) to submit an application.

Placement Details

Project Description:

The Stirling Centre for Research into Curriculum Making (SCRCM) develops and undertakes original research into curriculum making, engages in knowledge exchange with policy makers and practitioners to develop the curriculum across education systems, and disseminates research through face-to-face events and webinars.

There are several possible areas for participation on the placement, and we would wish to provide flexibility, depending on the interests of the person being placed. It is possible for the placement holder to get involved in one or more of the following, with opportunities to conduct original empirical research and undertake knowledge exchange and impact activity.

1. Empirical research led by Mark Priestley and Joe Smith into the development of Scotland's Curriculum Improvement Cycle, specifically the new technical framework. This will involve exploration of the perspectives of stakeholders developing the framework, education professionals who will enact it and children and young people who will experience it. The purpose of this research is to build greater understanding of the conditions and issues that will shape the eventual enactment of the new framework.
2. Policy research relating to scientific literacies in qualifications and the curriculum, led by Andrea Priestley and Denise Quiroz Martinez. This research will involve examination of key documentation in Scotland and Chile, as well as empirical research with teachers.

3. Empirical research led by Lizzie Rushton around teachers' understanding of sustainability and climate change education. This research will involve evaluation of programmes of knowledge exchange (working with experienced teachers) as well as evaluation of the impact of Scotland's new National Framework for Learning for Sustainability in Initial Teacher Education.
4. Knowledge exchange to develop a new curriculum making toolkit for schools and teachers (working in partnership with the International Baccalaureate Organisation). This programme will involve workshops with teachers in Scotland and international settings to trial and refine the toolkit.

Work plan

This is flexible, depending on the agreed focus on the placement. We would anticipate the following, with a large emphasis on collaborative team working:

1. Allocation of a senior mentor for the duration of the placement, with regular (weekly) meetings.
2. Involvement in research design.
3. Participation in applying ethical approval.
4. Participation in empirical data generation and analysis.
5. Participation in knowledge exchange and impact pathway activity.
6. Administrative duties (e.g. organising interviews, communications re SCRCM events)
7. The opportunity to be a co-author on any academic outputs.

The above activities articulate with the Universities mission to conduct research focused on places, spaces and people.

This opportunity offers the following benefits for the student:

Overall, this is a good opportunity to experience working in a busy research centre, through participation in one or more activities currently undertaken by SCRCM. The student will gain experience of working collaboratively in small research teams and will be able to build connections within the SCRCM networks. There may be an opportunity to publish with colleagues.

Experience and Skills Required:

Essential skills	Desirable skills
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well-organised and self-motivated with an ability to work to clear and agreed deadlines • Excellent communication skills • Ability to work within a team with a range of experience and expertise • An interest and some expertise in educational practice (especially schools) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An interest in curriculum studies • Experience of writing for publication in varied formats including for policy, practice and/or research language • Experience of facilitating conversations and/or workshops for practitioners

Further Information

SGSSS coordinate the promotion of this placement only and would expect administration to be completed by the placement students' funder and HEI. Please contact the host Mark Priestley (m.r.priestley@stir.ac.uk) directly with any queries or to apply for this placement.