

Call for Expressions of Interest: WGSSS PhD Studentship Opportunity

We are inviting expressions of interest (Eoi) for a fully funded PhD studentship under the ESRC Wales Graduate School for the Social Sciences (WGSSS), in collaboration with the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT). The project, currently titled “**Perceptions of Saltmarsh Change: Comparing Community Experiences Before and After Restoration**”, will aim to explore how local communities perceive saltmarsh restoration across different stages of implementation, with a focus on sites along the Severn Estuary.

This is a collaborative and interdisciplinary opportunity, co-supervised by **Dr Erin Roberts** and **Dr Cai Ladd** at Swansea University, with further supervision by Dr. Jonathan Reeves at WWT. The successful candidate selected in this Eoi exercise will be nominated for the studentship. They will work with the supervisors to shape the direction of the project, to reflect their own interests and disciplinary background.

We are looking to support candidates who:

- Are eligible for WGSSS funding (see [WGSSS eligibility criteria](#))
- Have a strong academic background (typically a first or upper second-class degree, or a master’s from a UK academic research organisation)
- Are interested in environmental governance, community engagement, and nature-based solutions
- Are keen to work collaboratively with non-academic partners

To apply, please send:

1. Your **CV**
2. A **brief note (max 500 words)** outlining how you would approach the project, based on the WGSSS studentship description and your own interests

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to meet online with the supervisory team (Dr Roberts and Dr Ladd) and a representative from WWT to decide who to put forward for the studentship.

Please send your expression of interest to erin.m.roberts@swansea.ac.uk by **November 24th**.

We particularly welcome applications from candidates who bring diverse perspectives and experiences to the research.

Call for Expressions of Interest – Required Information

Applicants should include the following in their expression of interest:

1. Brief Statement of Interest

- Why are you interested in this opportunity?
- What motivates you to apply?

2. Relevant Experience or Skills

- Academic background or modules taken
- Practical experience (e.g. fieldwork, research, volunteering)
- Any specific skills (e.g. GIS, data analysis, interviewing, Welsh language proficiency)

3. What You Hope to Gain

- How this opportunity aligns with your academic or career goals
- What real-world impact/change you would hope to achieve

4. Contact Information

- Email address
- Optional: phone number