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**SGSSS Student-led Open Competition 2025/26**

Supervisor Statement Template (Word Version)

The supervisory teams of all shortlisted applicants shortlisted at Stage 1 of the Open Competition are required to submit a **Supervisor Statement Template**. This statement is a key component of the application and of the assessment process. We suggest that supervisors refer to the Marking Framework (see section 4 of the *Student-Led Competition Guidance for Students & Supervisors*) when writing their statement.

In particular, we are looking for clarification on how the proposed supervisory team will provide the student with an outstanding PhD experience that engages with appropriate advanced development opportunities. In addition, we are keen to find out about supervisors’ own development needs so that SGSSS can develop its approach to supporting supervisors.

Once you have completed your **Supervisor Statement of Support**, please return it to your prospective student (in PDF format) who will upload it as per the deadlines established by the host institution they are applying to.

**As applications are anonymised for reviewers, we ask you please redact any mention of the applicant’s name and replace it with “student” or “applicant”.**

**Applicant Details**

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| **Applicant’s SGSSS application ID:**  *Please check with the student for this information* |  |

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| **Please select the** [**institution**](https://www.sgsss.ac.uk/about-us/governance/) **the applicant is applying to:** |
| ​​​ Choose an item. |

**Questions for the Supervisory Team**

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| Please set out the proposed **supervisory team** and their relevance to the student project as well as contingency plans. Where the supervisory team is cross-institutional, the added benefits to the student and their research should be detailed. **(word limit: 500 words max)** |
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| First supervisors must meet all institutional requirements for supervision. This was answered at the first stage of application when you were invited to complete the set of questions on SGSSS Apply. | |

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| Set out the **research environment** for the student at the host institution(s) with specific reference to the fit between the school/department and the proposed topic of research. **(word limit: 500 words max)** |
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| Explain how the supervisory team and the broader research environment supports the development of an **inclusive and diverse PhD community**. **(word limit: 350 words max)** |
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| If your student is successful in the open competition, they and the first supervisor will be asked to attend a Development Needs Analysis meeting with SGSSS. Summarise your initial assessment of your student’s **development needs** and how you will plan to meet these (drawing on potential inputs from the host institution as well as those provided by SGSSS and broader networks). Development needs refer to skills/knowledge etc that will support completion of the PhD programme as well as supporting broader career trajectories. These might include methods, disciplinary knowledge, or broader career skills /exposure like working with policy makers. **(word limit: 500 words max)** |
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| Please summarise the development needs of the supervisory team (new and experienced supervisors). Development needs might include supervision specific knowledge/skills, methodological or theoretical advances that will help with supervising this specific proposal or network development and other impact skills. **(word limit: 350 words max)** |
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| All ESRC funded students will be expected to undertake a **3 ms placement** within an academic institution (either working within a research centre or with a professional services team), or with a public, private or third sector organisation. The aim of the placement would be to develop transferable skills and sector knowledge that will assist career development. Successful applicants would work with the SGSSS team to identify relevant opportunities once in post.  To help SGSSS with its planning for placement support, please indicate your current thinking on the type of placement that might be best suited to your student’s development needs and highlight if you have identified a placement partner already (there is no requirement for you to have an identified partner at this stage). For further guidance on this, visit [this link.](https://www.sgsss.ac.uk/files/RinP-Placement-Overview.pdf)  **This question is not used in the evaluation of the application but rather is helpful to SGSSS in planning the support of placements.**  **(word limit: 350 words max)** |
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| Details of the supervisory team’s **experience of supervision**. This should include the number of students supervised by each supervisor (including ongoing supervision) and their completion rates where applicable, i.e., we would like to know the proportion of students who have completed within four years (or equivalent for part-time students). In addition, because the ESRC expects that all students funded from 2024 onwards will complete their PhD within the funded period (ie without recourse to an unfunded thesis pending/writing up year) we would like to hear how the supervisory team will support student’s completion on time. **(word limit: 500 words max)** |
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| Please confirm that the proposal is the **applicant’s own work** (even if you have provided advice on the content) and that you have not previously submitted a similar proposal via a supervisor led competition. |
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| If the applicant is already undertaking a PhD and is in their first year (or part-time equivalent) at the point of application then please provide a paragraph on the **current and estimated progress of the applicant within their PhD**, and confirmation that the supervisor agrees with the applicant’s assessment of their PhD progress (this is a question within the online application form). This information is needed to assess the length of funding required. |
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**Supervisory Team Details**

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| **Please confirm:**  The first supervisor will attend a development needs analysis meeting with the student and SGSSS following award announcement, and  A member of the supervisory team will attend an induction event on November 2026. |

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| **First Supervisor Details:**  **Full Name and Title,**  **Institution, and**  **Institutional Email** |  |
| **Second Supervisor Details (if applicable):**  **Full Name and Title,**  **Institution, and**  **Institutional Email** |  |
| **Third Supervisor Details (if applicable):**  **Full Name and Title,**  **Institution, and**  **Institutional Email** |  |

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| **First Supervisor Signature** |  |
| **Second Supervisor Signature (if applicable)** |  |
| **Third Supervisor Signature (if applicable)** |  |