



## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

### **The Scottish Government Office of Chief Researcher Knowledge Transfer Team**

The Knowledge Transfer team provides strategic advice and support on social science knowledge brokerage and knowledge transfer issues across The Scottish Government, and leads on innovative collaboration with Economic and Social Research Council, other UK Research Councils, and European Research Institutes. The team co-ordinates the ESRC/TSG Public Policy Seminar Series; is responsible for oversight of the ESRC/TSG PhD Scheme; and convenes knowledge sharing conversations, forums and events on priority policy issues for The Scottish Government. In addition to the collaborative schemes below in 2008 ESRC and TSG will be piloting ESRC and TSG Programme Fellowships and PhD Student Government Placements in Scotland.

**Team webpages:** <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Research/Research/17534/KnowledgeTransfer>

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## CURRENT ESRC AND TSG KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER COLLABORATIVE ACTIVITY

**ESRC/TSG Public Policy Seminar Series:** ESRC and TSG have established an ESRC and TSG public policy seminar series. The seminars aim to bring the best social science concepts and evidence into the policy arena and stimulate a discussion of how in the light of these insights, policy can be developed. The goal is to encourage evidence-based policy through an exchange between academic researchers, government analysts, and the policy and practice communities.

<http://www.esrc.ac.uk/ESRCInfoCentre/about/CI/events/esrcseminar/>

**ESRC/TSG PhD Scheme:** TSG and ESRC have agreed arrangements to joint fund PhDs on areas of common interest. The scheme aims to:

- Support PhD research to inform the development or implementation of The Scottish Government policy
- Encourage the use of applied research to inform public sector service delivery
- Build knowledge transfer and knowledge brokerage capacity in a PhD cohort group
- Create a collaborative network of informed and engaged PhD supervisors supporting policy relevant research in Scotland
- Encourage the potential for Scottish, and wider UK, Universities to retain and grow emerging academic talent with the skill set to provide utilitarian research output for a policy audience

**Scheme guidelines** are on the ESRC website at:

<http://www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk/ESRCInfoCentre/opportunities/postgraduate/fundingopportunities/tranSPORT.aspx?ComponentId=13638&SourcePageId=304>

**ESRC/SE Placement Fellow Scheme:** This scheme provides for academics to be appointed as ESRC Placement Fellows to have dedicated time in Government Departments, Government Directorates General, or other partner organisations to undertake specific tasks. In Scotland, the scheme aims to: **promote knowledge transfer** between academic departments and The Scottish Government Directorates General and the staff employed in them; provide Directorates with **research-informed evidence to develop and review policy**; **expand networks** for Government Directorates into academia; provide **career development opportunities** and offer **skills updating**; and enable all parties, including ESRC, to **develop their understanding** of research and policymaking processes and the interactions between them. For further information see:

[http://www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk/ESRCInfoCentre/opportunities/current\\_funding\\_opportunities/place-ment\\_fellows\\_scheme.aspx?ComponentId=13304&SourcePageId=5964](http://www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk/ESRCInfoCentre/opportunities/current_funding_opportunities/place-ment_fellows_scheme.aspx?ComponentId=13304&SourcePageId=5964)