

## Postgraduate Scholarship Information Sheet

<b>Scholarship Project Title</b>	Understanding economically marginalised young adults exclusion from digital-first Government Services: An ethnographic journey
<b>Advert Reference number</b>	<b>WD_2023_33_WSCH_2</b>
<b>Supervisor(s)</b>	<i>Dr Ray Griffin, Dr PJ White, Dr Aisling Tuite</i>
<b>Research Group</b>	AIB Centre for Finance & Business Research (lead) designCORE
<b>Department /School/Faculty</b>	Management + Organisation (lead) Humanities
<b>Duration</b>	4 Years(48 Months)
<b>Status: Full-time / part-time</b>	Full Time
<b>Funding information</b>	SETU PhD Scholarship Programme 2023
<b>Value of the scholarship per year for four years</b>	Stipend of €18,500 Fees, up to a maximum of €5,750 Research costs of €2,000
<b>Closing date and time</b>	<b>17/07/2024 at 4pm Irish Time</b>
<b>Interview date</b>	1/08/2024
<b>PhD commencement date</b>	<b>01/09/2024</b>

**Project Key Words:** *digitalisation, exclusion, public services*

### Post summary

We are currently seeking a full time PhD researcher to undertake a project titled “Understanding economically marginalised young adults exclusion from digital-first Government Services: An ethnographic journey”. You will be joining a research group that will have just completed a €3.5m EU-funded H2020 project HECAT ([www.hecat.eu](http://www.hecat.eu)) which has built a prototype public digital service ([www.mylabourmarket.eu](http://www.mylabourmarket.eu)), and are now commencing the recently SFI funded PEStech project. The project is at the interface of digital humanities, management and social policy, and so will primarily suit a social science or business graduate, but might also suit a ICT, business information systems, digital marketing, design, social care, anthropology, or sociology.

The core of the project explores the pressing matter of the digital divide, which is becoming increasingly important as the EU’s 2030 digital policy calls for all government services to be digital-first. The project will focus on economically marginalised young adults between the ages of 18-24 who are not in formal education or work and are therefore at risk of being left behind. The ambition of the project is to undertake ethnographic fieldwork using a cyborgian approach inspired by Donna Haraway, and so focuses on more complex and less knowable aspects of vulnerable services users experience of advanced statistical modelling, big data and AI.

As a process, the project will develop biographic interviews and creative design approaches to understand the evolving relationship between the digital and the human, as well as exploring the relational and emotional aspects of digital government services.

The PhD candidates will be registered on the 4-year SETU structured PhD programme and located in the Department of Management and Organisation, Waterford and the Department of Humanities, Carlow. SETU is

home to a rich research community, and the researcher will be joining a team of PhD students working across the institute on social theory issues.

### **Person specification**

#### **Qualifications**

##### ***Essential***

An Honours Degree (Level 8) with first class honours or 2.1 minimum in the areas of digital humanities, management and social policy, ICT, business information systems, digital marketing, design, social care, anthropology, or sociology or a related discipline.

##### ***Desirable***

A Masters degree (Level 9) with first class honours or 2.1 minimum or a Masters degree by research (Level 9) in areas related to the study.

A significant and demonstrable academic exploration in social theory, design, ethnography or digitisation.

#### **Knowledge & Experience**

##### ***Essential***

The ability to conduct research relevant to the themes the outlined above.

##### ***Desirable***

An academic interest in the areas covered in the project summary — in social theory, design, ethnography or digitisation.

Previous experience of working with vulnerable or economically marginalised individuals.

#### **Skills & Competencies**

##### ***Essential***

A high level of written and oral English. Applicants whose first language is not English must demonstrate on their application that they meet SETU's English language requirements and provide all necessary documentation. See Page 7 of the [Code of Practice](#)

In order to be **shortlisted for interview**, you must meet the SETU English speaking requirements so please provide evidence in your application.

##### ***Desirable***

Understanding of the skills and competencies for carrying out independent research and managing resources.

Demonstrable intrapersonal communication and presentation skills.

A high level of academic writing skills including critical exploration of academic literature.

#### **Further information**

For any informal queries, please contact Ray Griffin on email [ray.griffin@setu.ie](mailto:ray.griffin@setu.ie)

For queries relating to the application and admission process, please contact the Postgraduate Admissions Office [researchadmissions@setu.ie](mailto:researchadmissions@setu.ie) or telephone +353 (0)51 302883.

For queries relating to the funding programme, please email [scholarships2023@setu.ie](mailto:scholarships2023@setu.ie)

University Website <https://www.setu.ie/>

### **Application procedure**

Download the Research Postgraduate Application Form and return the completed application to [researchadmissions@setu.ie](mailto:researchadmissions@setu.ie) quoting advert reference code **WD\_2023\_33\_WSCH\_2** in the email subject line. in the email subject line.

**Please note that paper submissions will not be accepted.**

**The University may decide to interview only those applicants who appear from the information they provided, to be the most suitable in terms of experience, qualifications and other requirements of the post.**

**The University will short-list and interview those applicants who provide the most suitable information in terms of experience, qualifications and other requirements relevant to the post.**

**SOUTH EAST TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY (SETU) IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER**



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