



Post-Doctoral Research Fellow (2 posts)

We are seeking to appoint **two Post-Doctoral Research Fellows** to work on a project on *Understanding Recent Fertility Trends in the UK and Improving Methodologies for Fertility Forecasting (FertilityTrends)* funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC). This is a joint project between the Universities of St Andrews and Southampton led by Prof. Hill Kulu. The two-and-a-half-year project will examine the significant fluctuations in fertility levels in the UK in the last two decades, will investigate their causes, and will develop improved methodologies for fertility forecasting. The last two decades have witnessed dramatic changes in fertility levels, which were not predicted by demographers or government statisticians: Fertility significantly increased in the first decade of the 21st century, whereas it has declined thereafter. These changes when translated into numbers of births, have had important implications, for example in the provision of health services, childcare, and school places. The project aims, first, to produce detailed measures of fertility changes in recent years in the UK. Second, it will decompose the overall changes into those attributable to compositional changes in the UK population, e.g. by country of birth and education, and those which are attributable to behavioural changes over time, i.e. women have fewer or more children. Finally, these insights will be used to develop new methodologies for more accurate forecasting of fertility applying them to the UK and its constituent countries. The developed methodologies could be applied to project fertility in other industrialised countries.

This is an excellent opportunity for dynamic and dedicated researchers to work in an international team of researchers on a highly relevant topic. The post-doctoral researchers will work together on the project; one will be based in St Andrews and the other in Southampton. The Research Fellow in St Andrews will clean and prepare data from the Scottish Longitudinal Study (SLS), Northern Ireland Longitudinal Study (NILS), and Understanding Society (or UKHLS) for the analysis, will investigate fertility trends over time across the UK's constituent countries and will analyse childbearing patterns by population subgroups. The Research Fellow in Southampton will clean and prepare ONS LS for the analysis, will contribute to the analysis of fertility trends over time and across population subgroups. The two post-docs will conduct different sets of analyses, but will use data prepared by each other. The candidates should have a PhD in a social science discipline (including statistics and applied mathematics), experience in handling longitudinal data and conducting event history (or survival) analysis. Good communication and management skills are essential. The successful applicant will join a team of researchers including the project PI Prof. Hill Kulu and Prof. Ann Berrington who will lead the team in Southampton.

Both posts are available from 1 December 2019 for 30 months.

Informal enquiries can be directed to: Professor Hill Kulu, Hill.Kulu@standrews.ac.uk or Professor Ann Berrington, A.Berrington@soton.ac.uk.

Both Universities are committed to equality for all, demonstrated through our working on diversity awards (e.g., ECU Athena SWAN/Race Charters; Carer Positive; LGBT Charter; and Stonewall).

Details of the St Andrews post can be found at www.vacancies.st-andrews.ac.uk/welcome.aspx; ref: AR2289SB

The closing date for the St Andrews post is **26 November 2019**.

Details of the Southampton post will be available soon from: <https://jobs.soton.ac.uk/>