



The
University
Of
Sheffield.

Grantham
Centre

for Sustainable Futures

Grantham Scholars.

An ambitious and innovative PhD
training programme, building a global
community of sustainability leaders.



A new generation of sustainability researchers

There are many paths to a sustainable future, but they all require social, cultural and political change, and new ways of thinking. New research is essential to meeting this challenge, but it's not enough on its own. We need a new generation of sustainability researchers with the skills to become advocates for change.

The Grantham Centre for Sustainable Futures is home to a community of Grantham Scholars. These talented PhD students are working on innovative sustainability projects across science, engineering, social science and the humanities. They are studying climate change to help us work out how we can reduce its impacts, plant and soil science to find ways of improving agriculture worldwide, and the social, cultural and political forces that shape our relationships with food and energy.

New Grantham Scholars are recruited each year, and are based in all five faculties of the University of Sheffield. They are supervised and given specialist training by some of the University's most esteemed researchers – from the most promising young academics to Fellows of the Royal Society. Find out how to join them on p10.

But by becoming a Grantham Scholar, you'll benefit from support and opportunities that other PhD students don't get. Alongside your research, you'll take part in our groundbreaking training programme so you can learn how to turn academic ideas into evidence-based action on sustainability.

With the other Grantham Scholars in your year group, you'll learn about the worlds of academia, politics and business, and how they connect. You'll get chances to interact with policymakers and business leaders, organise events, and share the messages of sustainability with the public.

In our eyes, the Grantham Scholars are the sustainability leaders of the future.



Grantham Centre PhD projects

- Projects are **fully funded for four years** and available to UK, EU and international students
- Students may be based in **any of the 56 academic departments** at the University of Sheffield
- All projects have at least **two supervisors** from different academic disciplines
- Projects are advertised to applicants in the Winter, and students start their PhD the following Autumn



My experience of being a Grantham Scholar is that you work in a very interdisciplinary environment. You get to meet a massive range of people that, probably, you wouldn't have had any contact with otherwise, and they bring lots of ideas to how you can think about the issues of sustainability.

Hannah Sewell, Grantham Scholar



Grantham Scholars Training Programme

The Grantham Scholars training programme has been designed around seven core themes to help you become an expert activist.

You will develop these skills as an ambassador for sustainability at the University of Sheffield. As well as participating in the training programme, Grantham Scholars play an active role in the Grantham Centre, engage with the outside world on sustainability matters and take public roles as activists in sustainability causes. Throughout your PhD, you will meet visitors to the Grantham Centre who come from policy, business and academic backgrounds, to learn how sustainability ideas are created, developed and implemented by research institutions, businesses and governments.

When you leave us, you will know how you can be part of that process. We hope that, by having a voice in the Grantham Centre, you will develop a strong sense of identity as a Grantham Scholar – an identity that will stay with you after graduation as you take our philosophy with you into a successful career.



As a Grantham Scholar, you are funded for six months more than most other PhD students, to give time to develop the seven core skills.





All Grantham Scholars have at least two supervisors from different academic disciplines. They lead the subject-specific training that you need to complete your PhD project, on the way to becoming an expert in your field.

The training on the next two pages is led by the Grantham Centre team, working closely with your supervisors, to give you the skills for a great career in sustainability. Some training activities are required, others are optional. Our goal is to offer you a unique PhD experience, a range of interesting opportunities and a valuable set of skills that you can use in your career.



Research skills

Early on in your PhD programme, we'll introduce you to life as a postgraduate research student. These talks and activities will give you strategies for critically assessing existing research, developing good writing habits, interacting with your supervisor and building a successful career in academia or elsewhere.

Example training:

Getting The Most From Your PhD

Interdisciplinary working

To put the challenges of sustainability in a meaningful context, you'll get to know how different kinds of researchers work. Grantham Scholars meet weekly to discuss research papers from different academic disciplines. You'll also learn about the research methods your colleagues use, and be an active participant in interdisciplinary networking events, including our annual symposium.

Example training:

**Methods@Sheffield,
Sustainable Futures Symposium**



In addition to providing a lot of support for our research interests and projects, the Grantham Centre training programme offers plenty of opportunities to develop various skills necessary for a career in research. This includes *organising and coordinating panel discussions and events for the public*, and the opportunity to *meet and engage with policymakers and representatives from industry*. Through the scholarship programme I feel I'm better equipped for a future career in sustainability research.

Felix Lim, Grantham Scholar



Policy engagement

Working with policymakers is essential to putting sustainability research into practice. Experts from the University of Sheffield's Department of Politics will teach you how lawmaking works, and how researchers can influence it. You will also meet with visitors from political organisations.

Example training:

**Parliamentary Impact and Engagement,
Careers in the EU**





Business and enterprise

Businesses can be key drivers of sustainable innovations, and Grantham Scholars get lots of opportunities to interact with industry. Work experience and mentoring can help you learn how the business world works, and how you can shape it. We also run visits so you can see how companies put sustainability into practice.

Example training:
Mentoring, Work Placements

Media and digital engagement

The media offers a powerful route to communicating research. Experienced University of Sheffield press officers teach Grantham Scholars how to work with journalists, and you can take the dissemination of ideas into your own hands by learning the fundamentals of video production. This is underpinned by an intensive training course to help you become an effective all-round communicator.

Example training:
Communicate with Confidence, Working With Journalists

Public engagement

Sustainability affects everyone, and it is the responsibility of researchers to share their expertise so that challenges can be understood and met. All Grantham Scholars get involved in organising public talks and debates, and we'll encourage you to host stalls at festivals, run sessions in schools, and take other opportunities to share the messages of sustainability with the world.

Example training:
Seminar Series, Outreach

Leadership

A goal of the Grantham Scholar training programme is to empower PhD students to become leaders who can steer the future in a sustainable direction. You can build up core leadership skills by supervising student research, or by taking on representation roles in the Grantham Centre. Our student-led Grantham Leadership Project is a chance to create a campaign around a cause you believe in.

Example training:
Sheffield Undergraduate Research Experience, Grantham Leadership Project



Changing UK Farming Landscapes: Ecosystem Services and the role of Public Private Partnerships

Daniel Casey, University of Strathclyde

...policy shifts over the last
... changes Public Private Part
... PPPs able to deliver a wider

Research



Method

1. Why
 2. What
 3. Do
 4. How
- ... benefits
... the
... process
... the same
... impact
... ES &
... Data

Social Impact of Protected Areas: A Case Study in Nepal

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Protected areas are established to safeguard biodiversity and ecosystem services, but could generate income and jobs, for example through ecotourism.

Protected areas are associated with high poverty levels, but the impact of protected areas on poverty is still unclear. Conservation does not mean exclusion.

Assess the impact of protected areas in Nepal on poverty, ecosystem services and livelihoods using a quasi-experimental research design.

Methodology

1. Data sources:

- Comprehensive longitudinal national cross dataset for the period 2005-2013
- Spatial layer of protected areas from the World Database of Protected Areas (WDPA)

2. Econometric matching:

- Matching in a pre-specified time period to create a causal inference for impact evaluation

Matching Approach

Protected Area	Control Area
Matched	Matched
Unmatched	Unmatched

Match on: Socio-economic characteristics, Geographical location, Land use patterns.

Fig. 1. A quasi-experimental design is used to assess the impact of protected areas on poverty. The difference in poverty rates is what we are interested in.

Fig. 2. A spatial layer of protected areas from the World Database of Protected Areas (WDPA).

... 10-yearly period: 10% of protected area
... 10-yearly period: 10% of protected area

... teaching sustainable
... and problems



One of my favourite training sessions was *'Communicating with confidence'*. I enjoyed it immensely and was pleased to put into practice what I had learnt during the Chatham House Sustainable Food Futures Conference in the winter of 2017. I was definitely not the same person talking to these *'important people'* in the room, as I was when I first started my PhD.

Carolyn Auma, Grantham Scholar



Applying for your PhD project

A full list of interdisciplinary PhD opportunities in sustainability is advertised on the Grantham Centre website each year.



Deadlines and eligibility may vary between projects, but in general, projects are available to UK, EU and international students. Successful applicants are expected to start their PhD at the University of Sheffield the following September. They will be fully funded for four years.

Visit [grantham.sheffield.ac.uk/opportunities](https://www.grantham.sheffield.ac.uk/opportunities) for a list of available projects.

Applications should be submitted by completing the University of Sheffield's postgraduate online application form. When asked to select a qualification, choose 'Standard PhD' and when asked to select a department, choose the department that your project's lead supervisor is based in. Your application should be accompanied by a CV and a 200-word supporting statement. Your statement should outline your aspirations and motivation for studying in the Grantham Centre, outlining any relevant experience.

Visit www.sheffield.ac.uk/postgraduate/research/apply to apply.



Entry requirements

We usually ask for a good degree in a subject that is relevant to your project. Any further requirements will be given in your project's advert. We can accept qualifications from countries outside the UK. You can find out which qualifications we accept from your country at www.sheffield.ac.uk/international/countries.

English language requirements

If you have not already studied in a country where English is the majority language, it is likely that you will need to have an English language qualification. Visit www.sheffield.ac.uk/postgraduate/research for more information.



I was lucky enough to be invited to speak at the *United Nations Conference on Climate Change, COP22* in Marrakech, about the future scarcity of phosphorus, and the route to its sustainable management. Opportunities such as these make being a scholar a really rewarding experience, and help to broaden your awareness of the world outside of your project bubble.

Niall Bradshaw, Grantham Scholar





The
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