



University of
St Andrews



MAX-PLANCK-INSTITUT
FÜR DEMOGRAFISCHE
FORSCHUNG

MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE
FOR DEMOGRAPHIC
RESEARCH

St Andrews–Max Planck PhD Studentship in Demography / Population Studies

We invite applications from qualified and highly motivated students for a **3.75-year St Andrews–Max Planck PhD studentship in Demography / Population Studies**. The PhD studentship is funded by the University of St Andrews and the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research (MPIDR). The PhD student will be working on **fertility in high income countries**. The aims of the project are to analyse fertility trends and patterns in a number of high income / European countries and to investigate social and contextual determinants of fertility, while potentially also making use of subnational spatial variation. The project will be part of a European network for fertility research investigating recent shifts in the relationship between human development and fertility both at the individual and aggregate population level. The PhD student will be supervised by the following team: Prof. Hill Kulu (St Andrews), Prof. Mikko Myrskylä (MPIDR), Dr. Sebastian Klüsener (MPIDR) and Dr. Júlia Mikolai (St Andrews).

In the first two years (more precisely 1.75), the successful applicant will be working at the University of St Andrews. S/he will become a member of the Population and Health Research Group at the School of Geography and Sustainable Development (SGSD), which combines expertise in advanced techniques of demographic, longitudinal and spatial analysis. For further details about the research group, please see:

<https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/gsd/research/phrg/>; <https://populationandhealth.wordpress.com/>

In the third and fourth year, s/he will be working in the Laboratory of Fertility and Well-Being at the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research in Rostock, Germany, one of the leading centres for demographic research in the world. Please see: https://www.demogr.mpg.de/en/laboratories/fertility_and_well_being_3923/

During the period in the UK, the St Andrews–Max Planck PhD studentship will cover: 1) A maintenance grant of £14,553 per year (in the 2017/18 academic year, subject to increase annually according to the ESRC rules and regulations); 2) A research training support grant (RTSG) of £750 per year; and 3) Tuition fee to the amount of a standard fee for UK/EU students (£4,195 in the 2017/18 academic year). During the period in Germany, the PhD student will receive: 1) A contract amounting to a gross salary of about €21,944 per year; and 2) Financial support for travel, research training, and data acquisition.

Students with an excellent master's degree (first class or upper secondary in the UK) or the equivalent national qualification in any area of social sciences including statistics and applied mathematics who are interested in this opportunity must submit an application to Mrs Helen Olaez in the SGSD Postgraduate Office (ho10@st-andrews.ac.uk) by **5th of June 2017** for consideration. Please include 'St Andrews–Max Planck PhD studentship' in the subject line of your email. The full application consists of: 1) A brief research proposal on fertility in one or several high income countries (max two pages), which outlines the rationale and context for the proposed study, and data and methods to be used; 2) An academic CV (max two pages) including details of two referees; and 3) Copies of transcripts of undergraduate and master's degrees. Shortlisted applicants will be interviewed in the middle of June. The University of St Andrews and the Max Planck Society strive for equal opportunities. Applications of any background are welcome.

This is an excellent opportunity for a highly motivated PhD student to work in an international team of researchers on an important social science topic applying advanced quantitative methodology and statistical modelling. The student is expected to use the opportunity of preparing a PhD thesis as a collection of research articles according to the PGR regulations of the University of St Andrews. Four research papers will be completed and submitted to international journals of population studies. The PhD student will be a first author of the papers. The studentship is available from **1st of September 2017** or thereafter.

For informal inquiries, please contact Prof. Hill Kulu (Hill.Kulu@st-andrews.ac.uk) and Dr. Sebastian Klüsener (Kluesener@demogr.mpg.de). Please include 'St Andrews–Max Planck PhD studentship' in the subject line of your email.

