The Grand Union DTP and its pathways
The Grand Union DTP is an ESRC Doctoral Training Partnership uniting The Open University, the University of Oxford and Brunel University London. The partnership builds on the recognised research and doctoral training strengths of all three institutions. The Open University offers five pathways for doctoral training: see below -- with links provided that describe the training available for doctoral students.

This will offer you some background in selecting the relevant pathway lead to contact about the Fellowship. The Fellowship can be taken full- or part- time.

OU Training pathways

Pathway 1. Citizenship – Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, The Open University
Citizenship studies is a cross-disciplinary field in which citizenship is investigated as not only a contested legal or political status, but also as field of practices through which individuals and groups (regardless of their status) struggle for, demand, or claim, rights, recognition or redistribution. The varied dimensions of citizenship (and conversely, non-citizenship), the multiple actors involved in struggles over citizenship, and the numerous sites at which these struggles take place translates to a conceptually, empirically and methodologically rich field of study and research.

For more information on this pathway and how to apply for a studentship, please follow this link: Citizenship Pathway

Pathways 2. Development Policy and Practice - Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, The Open University
Development Policy and Practice at the OU challenges 'top-down' and aid-driven development policy models and promotes research into more participatory and inclusive approaches. In particular, its approach to 'inclusive innovation' focuses attention on how technological, economic and social innovations in food, health and education systems and sustainable energy infrastructures can bring benefits to marginalized groups. Underpinning this pathway is a history of research at the OU on the social and economic impacts of innovation and the political dimensions of development, all with a strong orientation to policy and practice.

For more information on this pathway and how to apply for a studentship, please follow this link: Development, Policy and Practice Pathway

Pathway 3. Geography - Lead University: Oxford; Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, The Open University
Geography at the Open University (OU), is at the forefront of interdisciplinary research on key themes of space and power, culture and practice, and environment and politics. The discipline’s breadth of impactful research is enabled by its distinctive group of internationally renowned and award winning academics whose work has shaped key debates in the discipline through explorations of notions of space and place. Geography at the OU is highly research active. Research is conducted through the Open Space Research Centre; and is divided across three overlapping themes of space and power, culture and practice, and environment and politics. As an inherently interdisciplinary subject, the Geography pathway is uniquely
placed to provide comprehensive social sciences research training to address societal and environmental problems.

For more information on this pathway and how to apply for a studentship, please follow this link: Geography Pathway

Pathway 4. Innovation in Learning- Faculty of Wellbeing, Education and Language Studies, The Open University

Our pathway supports cutting-edge interdisciplinary research into novel uses of digital technology for learning, teaching and assessment. We specialize in studying open and inclusive education and welcome proposals exploring the boundary between formal and informal learning. Our Centre for Research in Education and Educational Technology leads the world in research into: assistive technology use; children’s digital lives; creativity and gamification; the application of AI to feedback and assessment; analysing big data to improve learning; MOOCs for professional development; the educational uses of Social Media; online intercultural exchange (telecollaboration). Our research academics will show you how to use a broad range of methods and approaches, from ethnography, through visual and participatory methods, to data analytics, corpus research methods and eye-tracking. We positively encourage imaginative methodological combinations, as a means of generating new insights into the world of learning.

For more information on this pathway and how to apply for a studentship, please follow this link: Innovation in Learning Pathway

Pathway 5. Health and Wellbeing - Lead University: Brunel; Faculty of Wellbeing, Education and Language Studies, The Open University

Achieving good health and supporting wellbeing for all is essential to achieving social justice, and this lies at the heart of the Open University’s mission. We are keen to attract students to work with us on research that locates the experiences of service users, ‘patients’, carers, family members and practitioners at the fore of inquiry. We place value on participatory and inclusive research particularly with individuals that are marginalised, ‘hard to reach’ or have complex needs. We also have research expertise in population-level research. Our research draws on various methodologies and forms of analysis and much is based on multidisciplinary work across the social sciences, in particular drawing on medical sociology, critical psychology, public health, anthropology and other critical, applied social sciences.

The pathway will equip students to address health and wellbeing as complex, dynamic and fluid phenomena across the life course, and to use established and innovative social research methodologies to address these challenges. It provides training that students will need to research current and emerging health and wellbeing challenges relevant to diverse communities and stakeholders.

Applications are invited on one or more of the following themes:

• age, ageing and later life
• children, young people, parenting and families
• death, dying and bereavement
• disability and long-term conditions
• reproductive and sexual health
• care and caring
• mental health

For more information on this pathway and how to apply for a studentship, please follow this link: Health and Wellbeing Pathway