

## **MPhil/PhD Scholarship Call for Proposals — Deadline 30 September 2015**

The University of Westminster and BioRegional are pleased to announce a fully-funded scholarship (including maintenance grant and tuition fees) for a collaborative doctoral research project on:

### **ONE PLANET LIVING — MEASURING THE IMPACTS OF THE ONE PLANET LIVING FRAMEWORK**

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#### **Doctoral research project**

While the principles of urban sustainability are by now well established, there often remain substantial gaps in the translation of these principles into policy and practice. The ONE PLANET LIVING FRAMEWORK developed by BioRegional is one of a growing number of urban sustainability frameworks seeking to fill these gaps. Given the relative novelty of these frameworks, there is now a need for more detailed impact analyses to determine outcomes and to evaluate effectiveness. There is also a growing recognition that current impact assessment approaches are limited because they are not consistent with the basic observation that human settlements are complex dynamic systems.

This doctoral research project responds to these needs by:

- Analysing the strengths and limitations of measurement within multidimensional dynamic systems
- Developing a methodology for impact assessment which is scientifically robust *and* practical, relating to urban sustainability frameworks and addressing the interaction of social behaviours, technical processes and built structures shaped by multi-level governance
- Applying this empirically to the analysis of the ONE PLANET LIVING FRAMEWORK.

The research is particularly relevant since the ONE PLANET LIVING FRAMEWORK (1) combines ‘hard’ indicators (relating to ecological footprint analysis) with ‘soft’ indicators (relating to social sustainability, well-being and even ‘happiness’); (2) works across various urban scales; and (3) relates to different organisational entities from local government, to real estate developers, large retailers and SMEs for example. Hence, the question of how to measure impact is an important concern, to be able to substantiate outcomes and demonstrate effectiveness for sustainable urban development.

#### **Collaboration**

This doctoral project forms part of a collaborative venture between BioRegional, an award-winning social enterprise active in the UK and internationally, and the University of Westminster. The collaboration aims to enhance ‘research-into-practice’ concerning sustainable urban development. The successful applicant will implement the project in close coordination with, and under the joint supervision of, the two organisations. In addition to developing relevant research skills at the University of Westminster, the applicant will benefit from professional skills development at BioRegional, including working with team members, clients and partners on relevant projects. Given the long timeframes for built environment projects, it is envisaged that this will include a retrospective review of projects which have used the One Planet Living approach such as BedZED, as

well as current projects such as Bicester eco-town or Brighton's One Planet City and international projects for example in Tanzania, France, China or Canada. The doctoral work will inform the collection of data on a planned digital platform. The outputs of this doctoral project are designed to inform and benefit Bioregional's ongoing work, as well as to demonstrate original contribution to knowledge required for the award of PhD.

### **Supervision**

The project will be supervised by a joint team comprising: Professor Simon Joss and Dr Tony Manzi, University of Westminster, and Dr Matthew Wood, Bioregional. (N.B. The composition of the supervisory team may be subject to change.)

### **Application requirements**

The usual standard entry requirements apply; please follow the link at the bottom of the page. In addition, applicants will need to demonstrate knowledge and commitment to sustainability and good communications skills, combined with relevant subject expertise and preferably also some professional/work experience, in one or more of the following areas: urban planning, policy analysis, systems theory, evaluation studies. Applications will need to include an outline research proposal of 2,500-3,000 words (plus references). The proposal should include the following elements:

- A brief review of frameworks for sustainable urban development, including the ONE PLANET LIVING framework
- A brief conceptual outline of how impact assessment (determining outcomes, measuring impacts) relates to urban sustainability frameworks, including key research question(s)
- A brief methodological outline of a possible impact analysis of the ONE PLANET LIVING framework
- A brief outline of the proposed time schedule and plan of work
- Additional information relevant to the application.

It is recommended that applicants contact Prof Simon Joss to discuss the proposal prior to submitting their application. Email: [josss@westminster.ac.uk](mailto:josss@westminster.ac.uk)

### **Project duration**

This project will start in January 2016 and be full-time.

### **Further information**

Information about Bioregional: [www.bioregional.com](http://www.bioregional.com). Information about the University of Westminster: [www.westminster.ac.uk/ecocities](http://www.westminster.ac.uk/ecocities) and <http://www.westminster.ac.uk/about-us/faculties/architecture>.

### **For more information about how to apply:**

<http://www.westminster.ac.uk/courses/research-degrees/research-areas/social-sciences-humanities-and-languages/research-studentships/social-sciences-and-humanities-research-studentships>

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