

UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES ~ SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
INSTITUTE FOR POLITICAL & ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE (IPEG)

The Englander PhD Studentship in Civic Engagement

The University of Manchester seeks applications for a research studentship in the field of civic engagement, with special attention to the role of information technology in shaping and facilitating the role of citizens in a modern democracy. The project relates to the trend in democracies, such as the United Kingdom, for declining levels of political participation and volunteering, and reduced trust in government, and more generally what some see as a crisis of representative democracy. Some commentators, such as Robert Putnam, see this trend as part of a change in the character of modern communities, linked to urbanisation, work-intensive lifestyles, and consumption of the media, such as television. At the same time, there are also signs of the renewal of democracies, through experiments and new forms of political engagement, such as deliberative exercises and ways governments consult and involve the citizens, which suggest the possibilities of civic and civil renewal. In particular, the greater use of the internet and other mobile communication technologies among younger people, for social networking, has the potential to transform political relationships.

The research studentship would be an empirical project, which would seek to explore some of these trends and developments, such as the use of a new form of involvement. In particular, we would welcome a proposal on the role of the internet and new technologies in addressing the changing role of the citizen in the United Kingdom.

The studentship is supported by Peter Englander, an alumnus of the University, who has personal interest in the topic. The Englander Studentship is offered at the value of £16,670 per year.

IPEG at the University of Manchester

The student will be located in the Institute of Political & Economic Governance (IPEG) at the University of Manchester, which is known for its work on civil renewal and citizen involvement (www.ipeg.org.uk). IPEG is a research centre committed to producing theoretically informed and empirically rigorous work. In addition, IPEG ensures that its research agenda is relevant to the needs of practitioners, providing the vital link between the acquisition of knowledge and

its transfer. IPEG's future research plans are guided by a sense that the new reform challenges rest on the renewal of civic, social and economic infrastructures as much as public sector reform and institutional and governmental change. The Institute's research attempts to understand 'what lies beneath' in the infrastructure and fabric of our society and economy that inhibits and limits our capacity for reform and yet in some instances and elements may provide the dynamic for positive change. The academic team at IPEG provides new platforms of knowledge and understanding of these infrastructures, alongside addressing what appropriate and smart policy interventions into these infrastructures might consist of using experimental and other appropriate methodologies. The challenge for the future is to discover forms of governance and policy practice that will make our economy, civil society and democracy function more effectively.

Application procedure:

Application forms are available to download at www.ipeg.org.uk or by contacting Deborah.Woodman@manchester.ac.uk

To be considered for this scholarship, candidates will need to apply to study for a PhD via the normal University process, see <http://www.manchester.ac.uk/postgraduate/howtoapply/>

To be considered candidates should write "Englander Studentship" in the section on the University Application Form titled "Funding" or "Finance".

Your PhD application can be submitted either on-line (this is the University's preferred method) via the above web-page or in hard copy. The address for hard copy applications is:

Deborah Woodman
IPEG
3.42 Williamson Building
Oxford Rd
Manchester, M13 9PL

In applying for a PhD you will be required to submit an application form, copies of academic transcripts and degree certificates, two references and a research proposal. **The research proposal will be taken extremely seriously in determining suitability for the Englander Studentship, so please make sure that you follow the guidelines provided during the application process very carefully.**

PhD applicants are normally required to have undertaken postgraduate level study, usually to Masters level.

Closing date for applications: Friday 2 March 2007

Informal enquiries and requests for further information can be made to either Deborah.Woodman@manchester.ac.uk, or Professor Peter John at peter.john@manchester.ac.uk

Decision Date: Friday 23 March 2007