



Funded PhD Studentships

Two PhD Studentships in the School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape, Newcastle University

The School is pleased to offer **two** funded studentships for doctoral research to begin in September 2010

Studentship One (APL05): Cities, Infrastructure, Political Violence

The political violence of our world increasingly operates within and through the everyday infrastructures of cities. On the one hand, terrorists gain much of their power by appropriating or targeting the airline, subway, transport, electrical or water networks that sustain the modern city to distribute massive violence or disruption against it. On the other, state militaries have developed sophisticated means for bringing adversary cities to what they call 'strategic paralysis' by disabling the everyday infrastructures of urbanised societies. In addition, much speculation and fear now centres on the emerging threats of 'cyberterror' or 'cyberwarfare': means to disable and disrupt high-tech cities anonymously and remotely through filling their IT-based infrastructures with malign computer code.

In such a context, this studentship will develop a sophisticated understanding of the intersections of urban infrastructure and political violence in today's world. The specific focus of the project will draw on the successful candidate's background and interests, and the recent work of the lead supervisor, [Professor Stephen Graham](#) (most notably books 'Cities, War and Terrorism,' 'Disrupted Cities' and 'Cities Under Siege: The New Military Urbanism'). But possibilities include: 'infrastructure, political violence and the politics of cities,' 'military doctrine and the targeting of urban infrastructure; the politics of 'critical infrastructure protection,' and 'cyberterror and cyberwarfare.'

The project will involve critical theorisation drawing on the latest work in urban studies, political science, human geography, urban planning, urban sociology and military studies. Formulation and execution of an appropriate research strategy will follow this theoretical work.

The studentship is funded by Newcastle University and the University's School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape. The studentship attracts a

bursary of £15,000 p.a. to cover fees and living costs for three years. This amount will cover fees and living costs (a successful non-EU applicant will therefore have a lower stipend for living costs because of their substantially higher fees).

Applicants are invited from a wide range of backgrounds, including urban planning, political science, critical international relations, urban studies, cultural studies, sociology and human geography. Applicants should submit a full CV and covering letter outlining their ability to undertake the project and their initial ideas about how they would build on their existing expertise to drive forward the project's theme.

Informal enquires are welcome, please contact Prof Steve Graham, e-mail steve.graham@ncl.ac.uk, tel: 0191 222 8579.

Applications for the studentship should be submitted by email to Prof Steve Graham, e-mail steve.graham@ncl.ac.uk.

Studentship Two (APL06): Cities, Environment, Security

This PhD will address the environmental and ecological security of cities in a world of intensifying resource, food, energy and water shortages, rising sea levels and temperatures, and ever-expanding levels of urbanisation. The project will involve critical theorisation drawing on the latest work in social and political theory, urban studies and human geography about the nature of environmental security and the relations between cities and 'nature.' A key starting point will be the argument, currently emerging in Geology, that urbanising humankind is now living in a new geological era – the 'Anthropocene' – which is defined by the human shaping of the biosphere.

Formulation and execution of an appropriate research strategy will follow this theoretical work. The project's specific focus and research formulation will draw on the specific interests of the successful candidate under the guidance of [Professor Stephen Graham](#), the lead supervisor.

Possibilities include:

- the growing interest amongst military and security professionals in the environmental futures of cities;
- debates about the 'geoengineering' of planet's ecosystems;
- the politics of resource and land grabs as global corporations to address growing urban demands in the Global North;
- Urban policies and plans to improve the security, sustainability and resilience of future energy, food and water supplies; and
- Changing concepts of the links between cities and 'nature'

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therefore have a lower stipend for living costs because of their substantially higher fees).

Applicants are invited from a wide range of backgrounds, including planning, urban design, architecture, environmental studies, urban studies, sociology, geography and political theory/critical international relations. Applicants should submit a full CV and covering letter outlining their ability to undertake the project and their initial ideas about how they would build on their existing expertise to drive forward the project's theme.

Informal enquires are welcome, please contact Professor Steve Graham, e-mail steve.graham@ncl.ac.uk, tel: 0191 222 8579.

Applications for the studentship should be submitted by email to Professor Steve Graham, e-mail steve.graham@ncl.ac.uk.

Closing date for applications 21 May 2010