



The SOLiDi consortium and Durham University are looking for a talented and motivated researcher to join the International Training Network and write a PhD on solidarity in diversity.

<h2 style="text-align: center;">Early Stage Researcher</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">Solidarities under strain: place-based identities in turbulent times</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">A European Training Network on promoting solidarities across ethnic-cultural boundaries</p>
<p>The rise of national populism and far-right parties in Europe poses a big threat to all forms of solidarity, especially solidarity between members of various ethnic-cultural groups. European democracies should therefore identify the conditions that can encourage and promote solidarity in diversity, taking into account the social inequalities and unequal positions of power between various groups. The EU-funded SOLiDi project has developed a training and research program to train 15 PhD researchers in relevant theories, research methods and ethics in the fields of sociology, human geography and educational sciences. The training and research program will also focus on paradigms of social change, studying how scientific insights on solidarity in diversity can be applied in different policy contexts and organisations. Ultimately, the project will provide professionals and institutions with insights and instruments for building cohesive European societies. SOLiDi is a consortium consisting of 10 universities and 23 non-academic organisations.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Description of the research project</p>
<p>Scientific objectives</p> <p>Over the last decade, the liberal democracies of Western Europe have been characterised by turbulence and uncertainty, placing pressure on all forms of solidarity. Building on discussions of intersectional solidarities, this project will explore the diverse forms of labour that maintain solidarities in the North East of England. Following an ethnographic approach, this project will examine how place-based solidarities, senses of identity, and forms of collectivity, are maintained and challenged in the turbulent politics of the present.</p> <p>Tasks and Responsibilities</p> <p>The successful candidate will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Perform independently scientific research within a collaborative international research consortium.▪ Deliver written reports of your research on a regular basis.▪ Prepare a doctoral thesis on the topic of solidarity in diversity.▪ Publish scientific articles related to the research project.▪ Support the valorization of research results into tangible deliverables.▪ Participate in, and contribute to, scientific meetings and conferences, presenting your research to the scientific community.▪ Actively participate in outreach activities aimed at promoting your research to a wider audience.▪ Collaborate with the other members of the consortium to advance your research and training.▪ Participate in the tailor-made training programme.▪ Take part in the following planned secondment: academic secondment to Uppsala University (Sweden) and non-academic secondment with Citizen Songwriters (UK).
<p style="text-align: center;">About the host institutions</p>
<p>Durham University is a centre for research and teaching excellence in the historic city of Durham, N.E England. Founded in 1928, the Department of Geography is one of the leading centres of geographical research in the world and has been ranked in the top 10 for eight consecutive years in the QS World University Rankings by Subject. The Department has a vibrant community of over a hundred postgraduates and aims to develop a range of high-level research, analytic, and communication skills that are transferable to multiple career paths. For more information: https://www.durham.ac.uk/departments/academic/geography/.</p> <p>Uppsala University, founded in 1477, is Scandinavia's oldest university and one of the largest. The University is among the foremost research environments in Europe and grants around 300 doctoral degrees each year (see</p>



www.uu.se). Our mission is to pursue top-quality research and education and to interact constructively with society. Uppsala University has 42,000 students, 7,000 employees and a turnover of SEK 6.7 billion. The Department of Social and Economic Geography engages in world class research and education within the field of human geography. Today about 50 persons are affiliated with the department.

Profile and requirements

The successful candidate will:

- Hold a master's degree in Geography, Sociology, Social Research Methods, or cognate disciplines.
- Have obtained outstanding academic results at undergraduate and postgraduate level.
- Be interested in interdisciplinary, theory-oriented empirical research and have strong analytical skills.
- Be a team player and be sensitive to diversity.
- Have strong communication skills.
- Be fluent in academic English (speaking and writing) and satisfy the English language eligibility requirements to enrol on a PhD. Knowledge of Swedish is desirable. Full details of Durham University's language entry requirements are available here: <https://www.dur.ac.uk/learningandteaching.handbook/1/3/3/>.
- Possess academic qualities that comply with the requirements stipulated in Durham University's postgraduate entry requirements, detailed here: <https://www.dur.ac.uk/study/pg/apply/>.
- Applicants can be of any nationality, but have to comply with the following rules and criteria:
H2020 MSCA Mobility Rule: researchers must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country of the host organisation for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to the recruitment date. Compulsory national service, short stays such as holidays, and time spent as part of a procedure for obtaining refugee status under the Geneva Convention are not taken into account.
H2020 MSCA ESR eligibility criteria: Early Stage Researchers (ESRs) must be, at the date of recruitment by the host organisation, in the first four years (full-time equivalent research experience) of their research careers and have not been awarded a doctoral degree. Full-Time Equivalent Research Experience is measured from the date when the researcher obtained the degree entitling him/her to embark on a doctorate (either in the country in which the degree was obtained or in the country in which the researcher is recruited, even if a doctorate was never started or envisaged).
- Candidates may apply for up to three ESR positions in the SOLiDi project, but should mention explicitly the other ESR positions for which they apply in their personal statement.

Benefits

- The selected candidate will be employed by the host organisation. The guaranteed PhD funding is for 36 months (i.e. EC funding).
- A competitive salary, plus mobility and family allowances. Moreover, funding is available for technical and personal skills training and participation in international research events.
- The selected candidate will benefit from the designed training programme offered by the host organisation and the SOLiDi consortium.
- The selected candidate will participate in international secondments to other organisations within the SOLiDi network and in outreach activities targeted at a wide audience.

Please, find additional information in the [Information note for Marie Skłodowska-Curie ITN fellows](#).

Application

Candidates should apply to the host institution. To apply, please provide:

- a CV, including their skills and educational and career trajectory and their place of residence and place of main activities (work, studies, etc.) in 3 preceding years (max. 3 pages, font 11 or higher).
- a personal statement, explaining their motivation (up to 2 pages, font 11 or higher).
- building on the project description (<https://www.uantwerpen.be/en/projects/solidi/research/>), write a one page outline of the research questions, approach, and research design you would take to develop this PhD project.
- the name and contact details of two referees who can comment on your skills, experience, and suitability for postgraduate research (referees will only be contacted for candidates invited to interview).



After the deadline for applications, the project supervisor and co-supervisor will draft a shortlist of 5 to 8 candidates. This shortlist will be discussed by representatives of all SOLiDi academic partner institutions. The shortlisted candidates will then be invited for interview. The ranked candidates will be discussed by representatives of all SOLiDi academic partner institutions, who will assess the gender and geographical balance of the selected candidates and the balance in disciplinary backgrounds across the network. Successful candidates will be notified by the end of May 2021.

For additional information

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