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**Personal statement for LISS-DTP CASE studentship: Placemaking and mental health in refugee camps: An ethnography of asylum seekers’ lived experiences in the UK**

This proforma provides guidance for the personal statement of your application. It has been designed to ensure all applicants provide details related to the key criteria that we will use to assess each application. We aim to recruit students with strong potential who will thrive in a PhD training environment, regardless of what opportunities were available to them and what barriers they may have faced.

We recognise that there is no one way, or even perfect method, to identify talent and commitment, so our application process is designed to embrace diversity and to empower you to put your best self forward.

This six-question format approach replaces a personal statement in your application. Once completed, please follow these steps:

1. Send a copy of a) this personal statement; (b) your CV; c) academic transcripts; and c) writing sample to: [francesca.meloni@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:francesca.meloni@kcl.ac.uk) by Sunday 18th February 2024.
2. Complete the online LISS-DTP Diversity monitoring form ([linked here](https://app.onlinesurveys.jisc.ac.uk/s/kings/liss-dtp-diversity-monitoring-for-case-candidates-2023-entry-du)) by Sunday 18th February 2024; and
3. Fill in the ESRC LISS-DTP CASE studentship 2024 application ([linked here](https://www.kcl.ac.uk/csmh/assets/2024/csmh-esrc-liss-dtp-case-placemaking-case-application-form-2024-entry.docx)) and email it to: [francesca.meloni@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:james.porter@kcl.ac.uk) by Sunday 18th February 2024.

For informal enquiries about the LISS-DTP application process, please contact: [liss-dtp@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:liss-dtp@kcl.ac.uk).

Applicants shortlisted for an interview will be notified by Friday 29th February 2024.

**Please answer the 6 questions below.**

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| **Question 1: Why are you interested in applying for the ‘Placemaking and mental health in refugee camps: An ethnography of asylum seekers’ lived experiences in the UK’ LISS-DTP CASE studentship? (maximum 250 words).**  Hint: Consider telling us about your interest in the topic, the approach taken by the project, and/or why the supervisors/department/collaborating partner are good choices for pursuing this topic. |
| Answer: |

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| **Question 2: What skills, knowledge, and/or experience do you have that make you a suitable candidate for this project, and a PhD more generally? (maximum 250 words).**  Hint: This could include: (a) academic skills/experience relevant to the project and the PhD in general; and (ii) transferable skills/experience from your non-academic life that you can draw upon during the PhD. |
| Answer: |

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| **Question 3: Tell us about a recent research experience on refugees/mental health that excited you, and its relevance to the LISS-DTP CASE project (maximum 250 words).**  Hint: Consider a project that you may have been involved in, or have read about, explain why you think it’s important, how its findings relate to the wider field of refugees and mental health and the LISS-DTP CASE project, and what could it have done differently. |
| Answer: |

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| **Question 4: If you were awarded the studentship, what new ideas could you introduce to improve the project and why? (maximum 250 words).**  Hint: Think about 1 or 2 suggestions, such as methods or social science theories/approaches, which could bring new insights to the research and justify their inclusion. |
| Answer: |

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| **Question 5: Is there anything else you would like to tell us to help frame your application? (maximum 250 words).**  Hint: All students experience different challenges throughout their careers, leading to different opportunities and outcomes. Belonging to a marginalised group (racial, LQBTQI, disability, gender, or beyond), having caring responsibilities, financial disadvantages, suffering significant illness or bereavement, can impact a student’s potential, and is not always reflected in grades. We therefore invite you to frame your application in a context that best reflects you.  How will this information be used? Details given here provide context for each application which can be taken into account during the selection process. Any information provided will be shared only with the supervisor and interview panel. You will not be asked to expand on this information, but is welcome to discuss it further if they choose. |
| Answer: |

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| **Question 6: What are the contact details of your 2 nominated referees?** | |
| Referee 1  Name:  Job title:  Organisation:  Relationship to you:  Email address: | Referee 2  Name:  Job title:  Organisation:  Relationship to you:  Email address: |