

## Centenary PhD studentships

In 2009 the Department of Civic Design at Liverpool University will be celebrating its centenary. As part of these celebrations we will be supporting two PhD studentships and we are inviting applications from suitably qualified graduates for a September 2008 start.

You will be joining a vibrant research student community which currently boast over 20 research students (see <http://www.liv.ac.uk/civdes/researchstudents/index.htm> for more details of current students).

The studentships include home/EU fees and a bursary worth £12,600 per annum for three years.

### **1. Exploring the implementation gap in planning reform and infrastructure provision.**

At the present time, the land use planning and spatial planning systems in the UK at large are undergoing extensive processes of reform and modernisation. The drivers for change are technocratic and democratic in nature and seek to secure efficiency gains, effectiveness impacts and greater civic engagement in land and property development. In November 2007, for example, a new planning Bill was published for England and elevated planning for infrastructure to a very high priority.

This interest in infrastructure provision for land and property development is not new. It is sharply underlined at present, however, because of the urgency of the land use planning reforms, the existing infrastructure deficit and the uncertainty of the available funding arrangements for strategic and local infrastructure provision. This proposal seeks to address the conceptualised implementation gap in planning practice by critically examining the funding arrangements for infrastructure in land and property development.

The studentship would complement the research grouping concerned with the relationships associated with spatial planning practice and implementation. Allied research focuses on property development economics. This has been developed by a small group of researchers through their involvement in the three-year government review of the spatial planning system introduced in 2004.

Those interested in applying for this studentship should have (or will be expected to have) achieved the minimum of an Upper Second Class Honours degree in an appropriate subject; will ordinarily be resident in the UK; should be familiar with the field of public policy and governance and with an interest in planning and implementation.

For further details please contact the studentship supervisors Professor David Shaw (0151 794 3114 email [daveshaw@liv.ac.uk](mailto:daveshaw@liv.ac.uk)) or Dr Alex Lord (0151 794 3262 email [a.d.lord@liv.ac.uk](mailto:a.d.lord@liv.ac.uk)).

### **2. Securing integration in the effective delivery of responsive public services: The role of Local Area Agreements (LAAs) and issues of governance and accountability**

Local Area Agreements (LAAs) have been introduced as part of the wider modernisation agenda for public services being promoted by the Labour government. The aim of LAAs is to

allow greater flexibility and freedom in finding solutions to local problems and to deliver better outcomes through improved co-ordination. However, recent evaluations of the early impact of LAAs to date have highlighted a number of ambiguities in relation to their potential in securing greater integration in policy and governance, as well as their role in shaping locally accountable services to address cross-cutting issues.

Working in partnership with 'Liverpool First' – the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) for Liverpool with overall responsibility for LAA implementation - the successful PhD applicant will focus on a number of key issues of current relevance to LAAs. These will include the extent to which LAAs may be able to raise "capacities to act" through greater integration in policy and governance and to identify "success" factors in contributing to sustainability, as well as the influences and accountabilities of relevance to decision-making and the broader implications for centre-local relations, the devolution of power and responsibilities to localities to deliver public services and the implications for local prioritisation of needs through LAA-type arrangements.

Those interested in applying for this studentship should have (or will be expected to have) achieved the minimum of an Upper Second Class Honours degree in an appropriate subject; will ordinarily be resident in the UK; should be familiar with the field of public policy and governance and with an interest in regeneration and planning; and should demonstrate capabilities and/or aptitudes relating to social policy and economic and social governance, policy and programme management, and programme evaluation.

For further details please contact Dr Simon Pemberton within the Department of Civic Design on 0151 794 3115 (email [simon.pemberton@liv.ac.uk](mailto:simon.pemberton@liv.ac.uk)).

### **Application Process**

If you are interested in applying for either of these positions you should send a CV and letter of application explaining why you are interested in undertaking a research degree and why you are particularly interested in one of the two studentships to

Sue Roebuck, Department of Civic Design, 74 Bedford Street South, University of Liverpool, L69 7ZQ (email: [sueroebk@liv.ac.uk](mailto:sueroebk@liv.ac.uk))

This letter should arrive no later than Monday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2008