

# Research Assistant / Research Associate\*

School	School of Government and Public Policy ( <a href="http://www.strath.ac.uk/humanities/schoolofgovernmentandpublicpolicy/">http://www.strath.ac.uk/humanities/schoolofgovernmentandpublicpolicy/</a> )		
Faculty	Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences ( <a href="http://www.strath.ac.uk/humanities/">www.strath.ac.uk/humanities/</a> )		
Staff Category	Research	Reference No	13472
Reports To	Dr Wolfgang Rüdig	Grade:	6-7
Salary Range:	£26,274 - £30,434	Contract Type:	Fixed Term (24 months)
FTE:	Full time	Closing Date	Sunday, 25 January 2015

## Job Advert

The School of Government & Public Policy is seeking to appoint a Research Assistant or Research Associate to contribute to an ESRC funded research project, The Representative Audit of Britain. As part of an international research network, the Comparative Candidates Survey (CCS), a UK team of researchers, from Birkbeck College, University College London, and the University of Strathclyde, will be conducting surveys of candidates standing in the 2015 General Elections. The Strathclyde team is led by Dr Wolfgang Rüdig. The appointee would participate in the administration of the survey, the analysis of the data collected, both within a UK and a cross-national context, and the preparation of high-profile publications and other dissemination activities. The post would suit an applicant with experience in survey research who has an advanced working knowledge of statistical programmes such as SPSS and STATA. A Masters degree in political science (or other relevant social science discipline) is a minimum requirement\*.

\*Whilst a Research Associate is ideally sought for this position; applications from candidates who are close to PhD completion or whose award is pending, are also welcome. In such circumstances, appointment will be made at Research grade 6 (Research Assistant) and duties will be adjusted accordingly to reflect the grade of the post. This will continue until the PhD award is confirmed, at which point the duties and grade will be revised accordingly. Applicants who are not educated to PhD level and who are not close to completion of their PhD may also be considered, however appointment will be made at Research grade 6 level (Research Assistant) and duties will be adjusted accordingly to reflect the grade of the post.

## Job Description

### Brief Outline of Job:

The post will involve contributing to the ESRC funded research project 'The Representative Audit of Britain'. The main empirical component of the Strathclyde element of this project which also involves researchers at Birkbeck College and University College London is a post-election survey of all candidates who stand in the UK General Election on 7 May 2015. The survey will collect data on the socio-economic background, previous political experience, political attitudes and campaign activities of candidates. In the first year, the appointee is expected to take prime responsibility for the administration of the survey. In the second year, data analysis and the preparation of publications will be the main focus. The project fits into a long tradition of candidate surveys conducted at Strathclyde since 2007, providing a variety of opportunities to compare the background of 2015 general election candidates with those of the 2010 general elections, candidates standing in European elections, Scottish Parliamentary and Welsh Assembly elections as well as local elections. The research project is also part of an international network, the Comparative Candidates Survey (CCS), with similar surveys being carried out in many countries around the world. The successful conclusion of the empirical data collection in 2015 would thus provide the basis for numerous publishing opportunities. As a member of the research team, the appointee would have the opportunity to feature as lead or co-author of publications arising from the project.

## Main Activities/Responsibilities:

1.	As part of the research group, participate in the refinement of research objectives and analytical perspectives, with guidance from senior colleagues
2.	Take responsibility for the overall management of UK 2015 general election candidates survey (all stages from data collection to data entry and preparation of final dataset for statistical analysis)
3.	Conduct, individually or in collaboration with other team members, detailed analyses of the data collected, using advanced statistical methods
4.	Write up results for publication in collaboration with other team members and disseminate results in peer reviewed journal publications and presentation at conferences
5.	Collaborate with other team members on the development of knowledge exchange activities

## Person Specification

### Educational and/or Professional Qualifications

(E=Essential, i.e. a candidate must meet all essential criteria to be considered for selection, D=Desirable)

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| E.1 | Good honours degree in political science or related social science discipline   |
| E.2 | Postgraduate qualification (or equivalent experience) in a relevant field.  |
| D.1 | Ph. D. in political science or related social science discipline, with a focus on the empirical study of political behaviour, electoral studies, or similar area (this will be essential to be appointed at grade 7 level). |

### Experience

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| E.3 | Practical experience in conducting advanced statistical analysis of cross-sectional data  |
| D.2 | Practical experience in the administration of a survey of election candidates or similar group of political activists (such as party members, members of interest groups, demonstrators etc.) |
| D.3 | Experience of statistical analysis of longitudinal and panel data   |
| D.4 | Experience of statistical analysis of cross-national data   |

### Job Related Skills and Achievements

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| E.4 | Excellent working knowledge of SPSS and STATA   |
| E.5 | Familiarity with British politics, in particular the electoral system, political parties, election campaigns etc. |
| E.6 | Interpersonal skills, particularly the ability to work as part of a team.   |
| D.5 | Familiarity with other statistical packages used in social science research, such as MPlus, Liquid Gold, MLwiN, R |
| D.6 | Familiarity with the relevant academic literature (e.g. theories of representation)                               |
| D.7 | Fluency in one or more other European languages in addition to English  |

### Personal Attributes

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| E.7 | Self-starter – the ability to use initiative, to manage time effectively and to work independently where required. |
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## Application Procedure

Applicants are required to complete an application form including the name of three referees who will be contacted before interview without permission, unless you indicate that you would prefer otherwise. Applicants should also submit a Curriculum Vitae and a covering letter as a single document detailing the knowledge, skills and experience you think make you the right candidate for the job. Applicants should also complete the Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form.

## Other Information

Further information on the application process and working at Strathclyde can be found on our website (<http://www.strath.ac.uk/hr/workforus>).

Informal enquiries about the post can be directed to Dr Wolfgang Rüdig ([w.rudig@strath.ac.uk](mailto:w.rudig@strath.ac.uk); 0141 548 2918).

### **Probation**

Where applicable, the successful applicant will be required to serve a 9 month probationary period.

### **Pension**

The successful applicant will be eligible to join the Universities' Superannuation Scheme. Further information regarding this scheme is available from [Payroll and Pensions](#).

### **Interviews**

Formal interviews for this post will be held in early February 2015.

### **Equality and Diversity**

We value diversity and welcome applications from all sections of the community.

The University currently holds a Bronze Athena SWAN award, recognising our commitment to advancing women's careers in science, technology, engineering, maths and medicine (STEMM) employment in academia.

