

Department	School of Engineering and the Built Environment
Supervisors	Dr Andrew Smith (Director of Studies), Mr Alasdair Reid
Project Title	Housing inequalities in Scotland
<p>PROJECT DESCRIPTION</p> <p>A key area of academic and policy interest in the built environment considers the current housing shortage and housing inequalities in Scotland. The Scottish Government has published its first long-term national housing strategy – ‘Housing to 2040’. The heart of this work is considered to be investment in town centres, making it easier for homes to be the heart of strong communities. It also aims to engage directly with young people who will live longest with this approach, recognising that they should shape it from the outset. It takes a place-based approach so that homes and places work seamlessly, enabling people to live in communities that meet their needs and support health and wellbeing. There is a further focus on modernisation of social rented stock, providing warmer, safer, drier social rented homes.</p> <p>However, other areas of government policy are potentially having detrimental effects on housing supply and inequality, for example, leading to reduced supply of private rental sector homes and increasing rental values due to supply and demand issues. This may have severe consequences in relation to affordability.</p> <p>Further areas of intervention may include land for housing development, private sector investment and the role of developers in providing affordable housing to communities.</p> <p>This project is likely to take a policy and real estate analysis approach to the identified issues and provide a framework to increase the availability of good quality, affordable homes of various tenure models in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).</p> <p>Selection will be made on the basis of academic merit. Applicants should submit a more detailed proposal that expands on the broad outline given above. This should address specifically how the key challenges of the topic area will be approached.</p> <p>Applications from potential part-time students are also welcome.</p> <p>Prospective applicants are encouraged to contact the Supervisor before submitting their applications. Applications should make it clear the project you are applying for and the name of the supervisors.</p> <p>Academic qualifications</p> <p>A first degree (at least a 2.1) ideally in real estate, economics, housing studies or sustainable development with a good fundamental knowledge of real estate and housing policy.</p> <p>English language requirement</p> <p>IELTS score must be at least 6.5 (with not less than 6.0 in each of the four components). Other, equivalent qualifications will be accepted. Full details of the University’s policy are available online.</p> <p>Essential attributes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of fundamental research data analysis • Competent in applying a range of research methodologies • Knowledge of real estate, economics, housing studies or sustainable development • Good written and oral communication skills • Strong motivation, with evidence of independent research skills relevant to the project 	

- Good time management

Desirable attributes:

Ability to think critically and work as part of an academic team.

Indicative Bibliography	Scottish Government (2021), "Housing to 2040", online, available at: https://www.gov.scot/publications/housing-2040-2/
Enquiries	For informal enquiries about this PhD project, please contact Dr Andrew Smith: A.Smith7@napier.ac.uk . https://www.napier.ac.uk/people/andrew-smith
Web page	https://www.napier.ac.uk/research-and-innovation/research-degrees/application-process