

PhD Research Scholarship Opportunity
Department of Geography
National University of Singapore

Peopling Infrastructure: Aeromobilities, Automation and Labour Mobilisations in Asia

With a start date of January 2021, **ONE** fully funded Research Scholarship (RS) is available at the National University of Singapore (NUS) for prospective PhD students interested in completing an independent research.

Successful applicants will complete their degree in the [Department of Geography](#). The deadline for application is **31 August 2020, or until position is filled** (interested applicants are requested to contact the Principal Investigator at geolinw@nus.edu.sg early to discuss their proposals).

The RS details can be found here (<http://www.nus.edu.sg/admissions/graduate-studies/scholarships-financial-aid-and-fees/scholarships-awards/nus-research-scholarship.html>). The end-date of the RS award will be the fourth (PhD) year of study and it will cover tuition fees and provide a monthly stipend.

The scholarship is targeted for applicants who have training and skills in at least one of the following areas. There exists a possibility for combining the theme(s) below with the candidate's other theoretical interests:

- Mobilities
- Infrastructure
- Labour and/or automation

The PhD thesis work shall be an independent project which fits broadly into a Social Science and Humanities Research (SSHR) Fellowship project on "Peopling Infrastructure: Aeromobilities, Automation and Labour Mobilisations in Asia" (Principal Investigator [PI]: Dr Lin Weiqiang, Department of Geography with collaborators Professor Peter Adey [Royal Holloway, University of London] and Dr Tina Harris [University of Amsterdam]):

Motivated by the rapid acceleration of aeromobilities in Asia, the project aims to better understand the inner-workings of the aviation industry as well as inform related policies surrounding infrastructure building, technology and airport labour in the region. In particular, the project will focus on the daily labour that goes into the maintenance and reproduction of infrastructure as well as its relationship with technological (automotive) counterparts. Our focus is on contemporary Asia and is concerned with the sustainability of the present turn towards mega-infrastructures.

The PhD candidate is welcome to expand on the above project, and to explore related phenomena in mobilities/infrastructure/labour/automation. In addition, the candidate will assist in conducting a part of the fieldwork under the SSHR Fellowship project, predominantly in the form of semi-structured interviews with airport workers in China or Indonesia. Travel for this portion of the fieldwork will be funded. The candidate is allowed to use this empirical material as part of the PhD research.

[Department of Geography](#)

Geography at the National University of Singapore has a long and proud history dating back to 1928, when it became one of the first subjects offered in the Faculty of Arts at Raffles College, a former entity of NUS. Some 90 years on, it is Asia's leading geography department and is consistently ranked among the top 10 geography departments globally. This reputation is built upon research excellence in three key areas: tropical environmental change, social and cultural geographies (with a particular focus on Asian

cities), and political and economic geography. This excellence is showcased by the wide range of high quality research and publications that the department produces every year and its high impact and visibility in the academic communities throughout the world. The department is home to a growing graduate community of approximately 75 students (encompassing taught Masters, Masters by research and PhD students) and has a thriving undergraduate programme that typically hosts 90-100 students in the final Honours year.

Application Procedure

Graduate research students in the Department of Geography follow a semi-structured programme that involves a taught component in the first one to two years of registration. The programme allows a PhD student to acquire and develop to a high standard both subject-specific and transferable skills, thus enabling a student to access a broad range of future employment opportunities – in business, industry, consultancy, education, research etc.

Applicants must be university graduates with at least an upper second class honours degree or equivalent and at the time of the RS award. Applications from candidates who also already hold a graduate degree (e.g. Masters) are particularly welcome. Excellent communication skills in English and preferably language proficiency in one or more of the following languages—Mandarin Chinese, Bahasa Melayu, Arabic—are an advantage.

There is no restriction on the nationality of applicants.

Applicants must commence the PhD programme in January 2021. For further information and details, please contact in the first instance, [Dr Lin Weiqiang](mailto:geolinw@nus.edu.sg) (geolinw@nus.edu.sg) from the Department of Geography with a copy of your curriculum vitae. The application deadline is **31 August 2020, or until position is filled.**

Applications should be submitted [here](http://www.fas.nus.edu.sg/research/application-info.html) (http://www.fas.nus.edu.sg/research/application-info.html). Information on the SSHR Fellowship can be found [here](https://www.moe.gov.sg/news/press-releases/results-of-the-inaugural-social-science-and-humanities-research-fellowship-call-and-2018-social-science-research-thematic-grant-call) (https://www.moe.gov.sg/news/press-releases/results-of-the-inaugural-social-science-and-humanities-research-fellowship-call-and-2018-social-science-research-thematic-grant-call).