

Welcome to the 2010 BSPS Conference

This year sees BSPS visit the University of Exeter for a very full programme of submitted papers, plenary sessions, and fringe meetings. The plenary from Dr. Ties Boerma will be at 1.30pm on Tuesday afternoon, and the plenary from Dr. Tomas Sobotka will be at 9.00am on the Wednesday morning. Both will take place in the main lecture theatre, Newman E, in the Peter Chalk Centre. Ties will talk about

Demography and monitoring & evaluation of health in developing countries and Tomas will talk on ***Fertility in the developed world: five key trends***.

Additionally, there will be a special presentation by Ian White for ONS on Monday at 5.30 pm: ***Nothing new under the sun: a brief history of the Census in the UK***, which promises to be very entertaining.

The poster session combined with the reception on Monday evening at 6.30pm is the result of a special effort this year to attract more posters. Many thanks to all who contributed to this initiative. All Conference participants, whether staying on campus or not, are warmly invited to attend. Wine, soft drinks and nibbles will be served.

A couple of fringe meetings will run in parallel with the ***history of the census*** session. BSPS would be keen to run more fringe events of this kind in future years, provided they can be organised well in advance, so get in touch with a Council member or the Secretariat if you have suggestions for 2011. This year's fringe meetings are on ***Radical Statistics*** and ***Popgroup's new clothes***.

After dinner on Monday evening, in the Holland House bar, ONS will be presenting ***Stepping Stones***. This is a board game they have developed to explain the process and complexities involved in their gaining access to new administrative data sources (*continued on Page 2*).

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Editor: Amos Channon
(arc102@soton.ac.uk)

Co-editor: Emily Freeman
(e.freeman@lse.ac.uk)

Suggestions for articles in future editions of BSPS News welcomed.

BSPS Conference

(continued from Page 1) The Holland Hall bar will be open on both Conference evenings until midnight and will be the post-sessions focus of Conference socialising.

BSPS members are reminded that Council would welcome ideas and suggestions to further enhance the Conference programme in 2011 and future years.

On Tuesday evening after dinner, circa 9.30pm, the BSPS Quiz will also be held in the bar. Teams to be made up on the night, so come and test your general knowledge and see if you can trump last year's winners, the British Show Pony Society.

Of course, BSPS members should not miss the BSPS AGM, to be held on Tuesday evening at 7.00pm in the Newman D Lecture theatre.

This year, BSPS hopes to trial film some of the sessions, and it's hoped the results will eventually appear on the BSPS website.



So, if you are receiving this after the Conference and missed out this year, make a note of the 2011 Conference in your diary now: **the University of York 7 – 9 September 2011.**

Profile of Ties Boerma

Dr Ties Boerma (MD, PhD) received a degree in medicine from the University of Groningen and has since become an expert in developing health information systems in low and middle income countries. After working for UNICEF he joined the Demographic and Health Surveys in 1989, before becoming director of the MEASURE evaluation project in 1998. After joining the WHO in 2002 Ties is now Director of the Department of Health Statistics and Informatics.



With an interest in how health statistics should be collected, Ties has been at the forefront of efforts to strengthen data collection in many countries of the world. Alongside increasing the amount of data that is available for analysis, the improvement of the quality of statistics is also a key element of Ties' work.

BSPS Conference

Profile of Tomáš Sobotka

Tomáš was awarded his PhD at the University of Groningen ‘Cum laude’ in 2004 and has since worked at the Vienna Institute of Demography. His main research interest is in fertility in developed countries and is acknowledged to be an expert in the second demographic transition. He is a co-director of the Human Fertility Database, which provides free access to detailed, well-documented and high-quality data on period and cohort fertility (www.humanfertility.org).



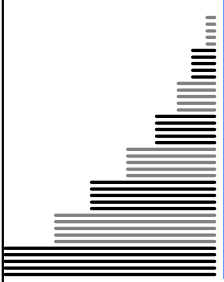
Abstract for BSPS Plenary Fertility in the developed world: five key trends

This talk will discuss five important recent developments in fertility in the developed world, put them in a broader perspective and speculate about the new insights for fertility projections and their broader societal implications.

- Period fertility upturns between 1998 and 2008
- The looming stabilisation in completed fertility rates
- The effects of the economic recession
- The convergence in fertility between ‘native’ and immigrant women
- Shifting associations between education, affluence, and fertility

These emerging trends lead to a number of conclusions that provide important theoretical insights and that can inform fertility projections. Many rich societies do not need to be concerned about their presumably low fertility levels, either because they are not as low as previously thought on the basis of distorted period indicators or because migration and migrants’ fertility help achieving population replacement despite lower fertility rates. Also the frequent notion of a substantial gap between fertility intentions and actual behaviour appears exaggerated, in part because behaviour is often measured by current distorted period indicators rather than by completed fertility rates.

In addition, while childbearing has become more an ‘elective’ rather than ‘normative’ part of individual biographies, many developed countries like Denmark, France, and Sweden combine moderate fertility levels with gender equality, extensive childcare, high female labour participation and high levels of education. Demographers’ attention should become much less obsessed with analysing and discussing seemingly low levels of fertility, but rather focus on broader consequences of contemporary fertility patterns for individuals and societies (Kravdal 2010).



News and Jobs

Other News

Positions Advertised

Paul Boyle takes over at the ESRC



Professor Paul Boyle

The Society would like to congratulate Professor Paul Boyle on his appointment as the Chief Executive of the Economic and Social Research Council. Paul was the President of the BPS until 2009, and his appointment means that the two most recent Chief Executives of the ESRC have both been former BPS Presidents (alongside Professor Ian Diamond).

Professor Boyle took over his role on the 1st September and the Society wishes him the best of luck with the role during these challenging times.

He will be at the conference in Exeter and is presenting some of his recent work—we look forward to seeing him at future conferences too!

Brass Blacker Chair/Readership in Demography and Health

The Department of Population Studies (formerly known as the Centre for Population Studies) is seeking a Professor/ Reader in the area of demography and health. This is a prestigious post and the expected appointee would have an established reputation and research interests in areas related to demography and health. Such areas of research expertise and interest might include population dynamics and development; interactions between population, climate change and the environment; fertility and family planning; the measurement and explanation of mortality trends; or the demographic dimensions of inequality

The successful candidate will hold a without-duration contract and be appointed at the level of professor or reader according to qualifications and experience.

Applications should be made on-line via our website at <http://jobs.lshtm.ac.uk>

The reference for this post is **BBDH**. Applications should also include a CV and the names and email contacts of 3 referees who can be contacted immediately if shortlisted. Closing date for applications is **17 September 2010**. Any queries regarding the application process may be addressed to jobs@lshtm.ac.uk. Please quote reference **BBDH**.

Other Newsletters and Web Resources

UNFPA/NIDI Resource Flows Newsletter

The fourteenth UNFPA/NIDI Resource Flows Newsletter is now available online. The RF Newsletter is a tool to inform the public about resource tracking for population and AIDS activities in general and the role of the RF project in particular.



In the current issue there is an article entitled 'Re-examining Donor Funding for Population and HIV/AIDS Activities'.

The Newsletter can be found at www.resourceflows.org. The editors hope that this publication will be useful, and welcome comments, suggestions or contributions to a future Newsletter.

Radical Statistics

Ludi Simpson has set up a blog that tracks the issues involving reductions in the collection of statistical information around the world. It can be found at <http://radstats.wordpress.com/>. Recent posts include articles on the collection of data in the U.S.A. and the collection of information on child well-being in England.

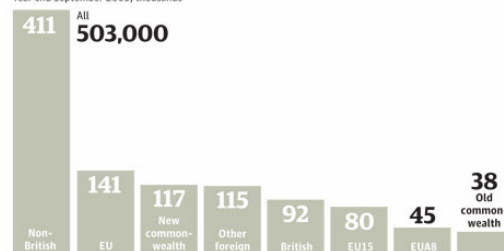
Information and Data on the Guardian Website

If you haven't seen the Guardian Datablog yet, this website contains many different stories and clear visualisations of data about the news. It has a wealth of information that may be of interest or be used for teaching and examples. It can be found at <http://www.guardian.co.uk/news/datablog>.

On this blog there is a whole section about population. Recent posts look at the non-EU immigration to the UK and population ageing in the UK. This can be found at www.guardian.co.uk/news/datablog+world/population

Where people come from

Year end September 2009, thousands



Graph taken from the Guardian Datablog showing nationality of those coming to the UK from outside the EU

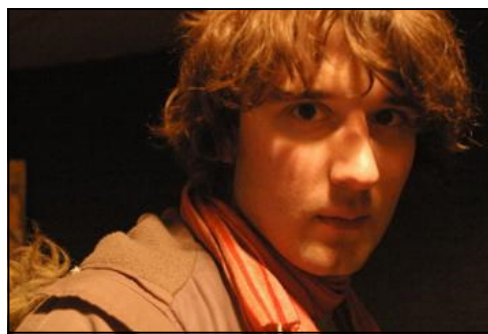


Spotlight on Research

Paul Mathews PhD Student at LSE

The proximity of relatives in social networks increases the risk of first and second births. This is one of the exciting policy-relevant findings of Paul Mathews' doctorate research on fertility in contemporary Britain. The research is based on discrete time event history analysis using the British Household Panel Study.

Paul has also investigated the methodology of fertility data collection. By conducting an internet-based experiment, Paul has found that simply by changing the preceding questions significantly alters the reporting of attitudes towards fertility in surveys. In the study, males who were first asked about their own mortality were more likely to report wanting more children than women or men who weren't asked. Paul has had a proposal accepted to run a question ordering experiment using the



Paul Mathews, PhD student at LSE

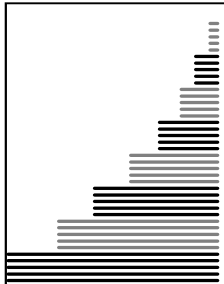
Innovation Panel of Understanding Society survey. It will be (to our knowledge) the first time such an experiment has been run in the UK using a representative sample (i.e. not undergraduates!). You can hear more about both of Paul's findings during the BSPS conference.

Paul is in the final stages of his PhD at the London School of Economics. He is interested in bio-demographic and evolutionary population studies, population policy and policy-relevant research, media representation of childlessness and social networks research. When not at his desk Paul plays football (badly, apparently) and is a keen scuba diver.

If you would like to find out more about Paul's research, areas of interest or future research plans you can contact him at p.s.mathews@lse.ac.uk.

Any young demographers who would be interested in sharing their research should contact the editors.





Meeting Report

PopFest

University of St. Andrews

POPFEST is a small-scale annual conference organised by post-graduate students for post-graduate students whose research interests fall within the broad realm of population-related research. The 18th Popfest conference was held this year at the University of St Andrews in association with the University of Dundee, and ran between 28th and 30th June. Our two keynote speakers, Dr. Tomas Sobotka and Dr. Catherine de Wenden, attracted a good and appreciative audience, and our post-graduate presenters, for whom the conference was designed, delivered a range of interesting and diverse papers, each session chaired ably by fellow post-graduates.

The event attracted an international complement of students, whose diverse range of research interests ensured a lively and stimulating conference. Perhaps the most valuable element of this year's Popfest was feedback from the floor and follow-up discussion that was stimulated by each presentation. The event also benefited from the presence of promotional stands from AQMeN and the Scottish Government who provided delegates with some valuable information regarding quantitative methods training and civil service careers respectively.

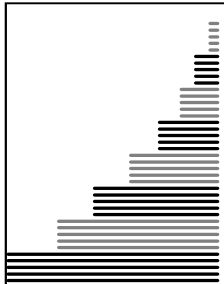
Day 1: Monday 28 June 2010

Session 1: The opening session dealt with Health issues in demography. Chaired by Ivana Kulhanova (*Charles University in Prague and Lund University*), the first speaker was Billie de Haas (*University of Groningen*) whose research discussed the teaching of comprehensive sexuality education programmes in Uganda and how Culture, society, and HIV/AIDS awareness affect teaching programmes. Sarah McGarrol (*University of St Andrews*) continued the theme with her presentation on the factors which influence patient management and attendance at cardiac rehabilitation programmes in NHS Fife. There was a link in topic between Sarah's presentation and that of Tina Hannemann (*University of Lund*), whose paper explored the impact of job constraints and social aspects of the working place on the incidence of cardiovascular disease

Keynote Speaker 1: Our first keynote speaker was Dr. Catherine De Wenden (*Centre for International Studies and Research, Sciences Po*). Her talk lasted for an hour and provided an absorbing, stimulating and colourful discussion on European migration. In particular, the talk focused on flows of migration, migration policies and citizenship in Europe with the talk illustrated throughout by a selection of interesting maps and diagrams.

Session 2: The second (and final) formal session of the day focused on Households and Neighbourhoods and was chaired by Michael Grayer (*Queen Mary, University of London*). Daniel James Lewis (*UCL Department of Geography*) explored the potential of patient registers in Southwark, London to define household structure. Daniel was followed by (*continued...*)





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PopFest

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John McCarthy (*School of Geography, University of Leeds*), who discussed changes in small area populations and household characteristics across Scotland between 1991 and 2001, with a view to informing future resource allocation. Finally, Steven Jivraj (*Centre for Census and Survey Research (CCSR), University of Manchester*) spoke about the mechanisms of socioeconomic neighbourhood change through an analysis of School Census data in England.

The end of the first day was marked by a wine reception followed by a conference dinner in the grand setting of Lower College Hall at the University of St Andrews.

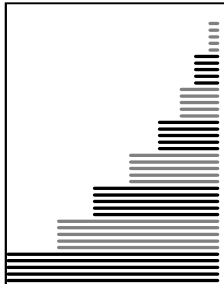
Day 2: Tuesday, 29th July, 2010

Session 3: The second day of the conference opened with the second Health session. Chaired by James Robards (*University of Southampton*) it began with a presentation by Tom Clemens (*University of St Andrews*) which looked at the relationship between unemployment and mortality in Scotland and explored the possibility of a causal link between the two. This was followed by a joint presentation given by Andrea Marcellusi and Patrizia Giannantoni (*University Tor Vergata, Rome*) on the identification of risk factors for cervical cancer in a multicentre case-control study in Italy. The third paper explored the effectiveness of health care systems in countries in transition (selected countries in eastern and central Europe). Ivana Kulhánová (*Charles University in Prague & Lund University*) explored this theme with reference to avoidable mortality.

Session 4: This session was chaired by Susan Pringle (*University of St Andrews*) and was titled “innovative methods in population studies”. The first paper, co-presented by Malcolm Campbell (*University of Sheffield*) and James Robards (*University of Southampton*) addressed the use of the Lexis diagram in understanding demographic differences and provided colourful examples of the potential for this approach as an illustrative tool. Next, Maarten Bijlsma and Jacob Moerman, (*University of Groningen*) spoke about their work on internet virtual memorials and their form, function and subscribers using a mixed method approach. Finally, Michael Grayer (*Queen Mary, University of London*) discussed the problem of estimating mortality rates within small geographic areas and explored and compared a number of potential models that might resolve this problem.

Session 5: The 3rd session of the day contained papers on the topic of Migrants and Migration and was chaired by Marta Styrc (*University of Lund*). Rory Coulter (*University of St Andrews*) spoke first about residential mobility and housing choices in the United Kingdom, exploring potential links between moving desires and subsequent move behaviours. Next, Elina Apsite (*University of Latvia*) shared her findings on social networks and transnational activities among different Latvian migrant groups in the UK. Catherine L. Thorkelson (*continued...*)





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(*Umeå University, Sweden*) then explored the extent of underqualification amongst immigrants' within the Swedish labour market, with a discussion of the implications of this for individuals.

Session 6: Session 6 was chaired by Daniel James Lewis (*UCL*) and turned to Fertility, families and the lifecourse. Deborah Davies (*University of Southampton*) discussed Divorce and economic activity among married women in England and Wales, through an exploration and critique of existing theories and a discourse on limitations of the type of available data. The theme of marriage was continued by the second speaker, Marta Styrac (*Lund University*), who discussed first marriages in Poland and the variables that might affect their stability.

Careers panel discussion: A Careers panel was the final formal event of the day. We were very fortunate to have Paul Bradshaw (The Scottish Centre for Social Research), Alison Platt, Graeme Beale, Franca Eirich (The Scottish Government) and Professor Paul Boyle (School of Geography and Geosciences, the University of St Andrews) come and discuss their experiences in their chosen careers. The panellists' contributions sparked a lively, wide-ranging and informal discussion from the floor which offered plenty of advice for the delegates.

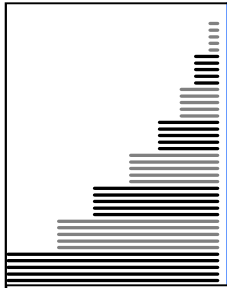
Day 2: Wednesday, 30th July, 2010

Session 7: The first session of the third and final day was chaired by Zhong Eric Chen (*University of Edinburgh*) and contained further papers exploring the topic of Migrants and Migration. The first presentation by Catalina Franco (*Departamento Nacional de Planeación, Colombia*) looked at Latin American immigration in the United States and the wage differentials between Latin American immigrants and U.S. nationals using 2000 census data. The second paper was a joint presentation by Angie Suárez and Orlando Salazar (*University of Madrid*) which discussed the transfer of funds from migrants to people who remain at home. This was then followed up with a comprehensive examination of the possibility for successful policies, integration, co-development and management of migrant flows.

Session 8: The final session of the conference was chaired by Tina Hannemann (*University of Lund*), and was a second look at Fertility, families and the lifecourse. Ines Wlosnewski (*University of Lund*) discussed the age difference between spouses and the impact on longevity in Utah in the US. Zhong Eric Chen (*University of Edinburgh*) looked at parenting motives and whether individuals account for parenthood or remain childfree. Finally Kevin Ralston (*University of Stirling*) discussed using data from the Scottish Longitudinal Study to understand key influences on childbearing and family formation.

Speaker: Our second keynote speaker, Dr. Tomas Sobotka, brought the (*continued...*)





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PopFest

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conference to an elegant conclusion with his discussion of Fertility in Europe. The talk was well-attended and provided a fascinating overview of contemporary and likely future fertility trends in Europe.

The conference proved to be a very successful event with all of the evaluation forms indicating that all aspects of Popfest from content, through to accommodation and catering was all rated highly by all those attending.

Thanks and Acknowledgements

We gratefully acknowledge financial support from the British Society for Population Studies (BSPS), Centre for Population Change (CPC), Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), GRADskills at the University of St. Andrews, The Scottish Government and the School of Geography and Geosciences at the University of St. Andrews. We also wish to thank the Advanced Quantitative Methods Network (AQMeN) for attending and advertising the conference. The following individuals also deserve special mention:

- Tracey Dixon – University of Dundee
- Graeme Sandeman – School of Geography and Geosciences, University of St Andrews
- Alison Platt and Gil Clark – The Scottish Government
- Pauline Brown – Conference Services, University of St Andrews
- Colette Finlay – Finance department, University of St Andrews
- Anne Shepherd – British Society for Population Studies

To conclude this report we are pleased to announce that next year's Popfest will take place at the University of Groningen in the Netherlands.

The 2010 Popfest Organising Committee

Forthcoming BSPS Meetings

What's in a name?

A day meeting to explore the use of names in population research

Names can be very important for the study of historical populations. Although it is rare that a historical demographer would want to know who a person was, in the way that a historian or genealogist would, names are often the primary way of identifying individuals and can provide important information about structures and processes in historical populations. This meeting will explore different uses of names in population research, including nominal record linkage, the use of surnames as genetic markers to inform studies of migration and social mobility, and forenames as indicators of cultural change.

Confirmed Speakers:

- Mark Jobling & Turi King (Leicester, genetics dept)
- Malcolm Smith (Durham, anthropology dept)
- Paul Longley, Pablo Mateos & James Cheshire (UCL, geography dept)
- Eilidh Garrett & Chris Galley (Cambridge & Barnsley College)
- Gill Newton (Cambridge, geography dept)
- Peter Kitson (Cambridge, geography dept).

Date: 13th December 2010

Times: 10.30 am until 4pm

Place: Geography Department, University of Cambridge

Attendance is free but please register your intention to attend by emailing Alice Reid amr1001@cam.ac.uk.



Forthcoming Events

Statistics User Forum Conference

27 October 2010

Registration for the 2010 SUF conference has now opened. More information can be found on SUFeNews and the conference home page. The 2010 conference will be held at Savoy Place, and will look at the recession from the point of view of a user of statistics, exploring the economic and social implications and consequences. Also considered will be what may happen as we move through to the recovery.

Taking place a week after the government is due to announce the detail of the spending cuts in the comprehensive spending review, the conference will probe some fundamental issues relating to both the recession and the recovery, considering the latest information available.



Your chance to get involved

As you will know, the afternoon will have two parallel streams; one looking at the economic impact and one looking at the social impact. There will be two sessions in each stream before a plenary session brings the conference to a close. We would like SUF groups to submit abstracts to run these parallel sessions, stating which stream they want to cover and giving a short overview of how they will manage the sessions. Questions that these sessions might cover include:

- Is the current statistics base sufficient to measure the impact and monitor the recovery?
- Outlining some possible consequences from the recession and their implications for the recovery
- What, if any, lessons can we learn from previous recessions, or from international experiences, can we draw on during the recovery?
- Are there particular groups of society that have been, or will be, more affected by the recession?

Submissions for sessions should be sent to suf@rss.org.uk by close of business on Friday 10 September. Where possible, sessions should look to draw on views from the relevant producers of official statistics so that each session represents real user-producer engagement.

Forthcoming Events

6th International Conference on Population Geographies

Umeå, Sweden, 14 - 17 June 2011

The Sixth International Conference on Population Geographies will be held at the University Campus in Umeå, Sweden next June. The call for papers and more information, including a link to our website, will be sent out during the fall.

Deadline for abstract submission will be February 2011.

The preliminary programme, in brief, is:

Tuesday 14/6

- Registration, reception and pre-excursion for early arrivals

Wednesday 15/6

- Registration, keynotes and parallel sessions alongside an evening activity

Thursday 16/6

- Keynotes and parallel sessions followed by the conference dinner

Friday 17/6

- Parallel sessions and closing session

Friday - Sunday 17-19/6

- Post-conference excursion to Kiruna

The organisers hope to see you here in Umeå next June.

Gunnar Malmberg



Italian Association for Population Studies

9th Biannual General Population Meeting

Call for papers—Deadline extended

The 9th Biannual General Population Meeting will be held in Ancona, at the School of Economics "Giorgio Fuà", Università Politecnica delle Marche, next **2-4th February 2011**.

It is possible to present either final papers or works in progress. A multidisciplinary approach to population matters is also welcome.

Papers will be allocated either in parallel sessions with a limited number of papers or in poster session with its own time slot. The Scientific Committee of the Conference will allocate the papers in the parallel sessions or poster sessions judging the level of progress of the research and the novelty of the topics or methods presented in the papers.

At least one of the parallel sessions will be in English. Parallel sessions could also be co-organised with the British Society for Population Studies.

Date to remember:

- **July 30th 2010** send the application form attached to the present call. The information provided will be used for the provisional structure of the program of the conference. The file must be named with the surname of the first author and sent to segreteria@sis-aisp.it
- **October 15th 2010** presenters must confirm their participation sending a two-page long abstract following the standard that will be sent by the AISP Secretariat.
- **October 30th 2010** the AISP Secretariat will inform the first author about the destination of the contribution presented (Parallel session or poster) together with the names of the Chair and the Discussant.
- **January 15th 2011** authors must send the final version of their work to the Chair and the Discussant of the session. Posters may be pinned directly during the Conference.



Welcome to the New BSPS Members

We are delighted to welcome the following new members to BSPS. Membership of the society is growing all the time and further applications are always welcome.

Dr. Maria Iacovou

Research fellow - ISER
University of Essex

Philipp Hessel

Research student
London School of Economics

Alison Mckinley

Postgraduate student
CPS, LSHTM

Dr. Lucia Pozzi

Professor
Universita Degli Studi Di Sassari

Norainie Ahmad

Research student
Oxford Institute of Ageing

Michiyo Iwami

Researcher
Independent

Ngaire Coombs

Research student
University of Southampton

Details of how to apply and the application form are on the website. Rates are:

Full Member — £25 Country (Live outside S. E. train region) and overseas — £20

Corporate— £40 Overseas (LEDCs only) — £7.50

Retired (from work) — £7.50

Full-time Student — £7.50

