

## Project proposal template – Faculty studentships Summer 2014

<i>Project title</i>	Alternative Lifestyles: Mobile Home Parks in the Metropolitan Fringe - a UK/US comparison.	<i>Director of Study</i>	Dr Annie Hughes
<i>Second Supervisor</i>	Dr Peter Garside	<i>School</i>	Geography, Geology ▼
<i>Other members of supervisory team</i>		<i>Any requirements from applicant (eg degree in specific subject area)</i>	Social science degree

**Project summary**  
**(max 1,000 characters)**

Mobile homes are growing in popularity for those who cannot afford conventional housing (Yarnal and Aman, 2009). There are now approximately 250,000 people living in park homes in the UK while in the US over 22m people live in one. Considering that London and the South East require just under 100, 000 new homes pa to meet demand in the next 20 years (TCPA 2013), it is not surprising that authorities and developers are exploring the use of mobile homes as viable alternatives to traditional housing stock (Genz, 2001).

Whilst very little is actually known about what this means for the future of the communities that actually inhabit these spaces, a range of stereotypes dominate our perceptions. Residents of mobile homes are often seen as “deficient: deficient in income, deficient in education, deficient in intelligence, and deficient in moral fiber” (MacTavish, 2006).

This research aims to explore the lifestyles, social capital and sustainability of communities within mobile home parks in the UK (SE) and US (Michigan), against a back drop of changing legislation (Mobile Homes Act 2013) and the continuing housing crisis in societies driven by capital ownership.