

The Royal Holloway Travel Award generously funded the fieldwork for my PhD research project in the UK, London and Manchester, which started March 2016.

My research topic is to identify the generational and spatial impacts on the attitude towards Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) across Somali communities in Britain (London and Manchester).

I have chosen to base my research in London and Manchester as these cities have a high number of Somali communities compared with other cities in the UK. Before I started my field research, I visited Somali communities and societies in both London and Manchester on a regular basis to build relationships with local people.

These regular visits to communities and societies were a very important part of my field research. As my research topic includes very sensitive topics, I would not have been able to have an open and honest discussion without first developing a good relationship and would not have been able to collect the data I did for my project.



West London Somaliland community (London)



SASCA (Manchester)

Two communities in particular, the West London Somaliland community in London and the Somali Adult Social Care Agency (SASCA) in Manchester massively helped me with my continuing field research in both London and Manchester.



West London Somaliland Community member



Some participants could not speak English very well or preferred that people with a Somali background undertook the interview instead of me. For these cases, two research assistants helped me by translating the interviews from the Somali language to English, and undertook interviews themselves where appropriate to gather a good range of information.



With my research assistant (front of community in SASCA)

The Royal Holloway Travel Award helped me by not allowing me to visit the communities and societies in both cities on a regular bases, but it also supported my research assistants travel between cities to help my field research. I am now completing my field work both in London and

Manchester, and am so glad I could meet a wide range of participants, and am really excited about the next phase of my research – analysing the data I have gathered.