

PhD studentship in the area of perinatal mental health

Closing date: Sunday 13th November 2016

Interview date: Wednesday 23rd November 2016

The University of Worcester is seeking to grow its research capacity in relation to adult mental health. Applications are invited for a full-time fully-funded PhD studentship in perinatal mental health to commence in January 2017.

The University of Worcester and its partner, South Staffordshire and Shropshire Healthcare NHS Trust (SSSFT; <http://www.sssft.nhs.uk/>), are offering this jointly funded studentship to explore and develop perinatal mental healthcare. The studentship is based at the University of Worcester.

Mental health difficulties affect a significant proportion of women during pregnancy or early parenthood and can have serious effects on the whole family. Research shows that not all women access the treatment they need at this time. This studentship will investigate current practice and theory in this area using a mixture of qualitative and quantitative research methods.

The student will work within the vibrant multi-disciplinary Institute of Health & Society at the University of Worcester, which has a strong track record in perinatal mental health research. The student will benefit from close links with SSSFT. SSSFT provides mental health, learning disability and children and family services across South Staffordshire, Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin, including specialist mother and baby services.

Supervisory team

The supervisory team will include Professor Eleanor Bradley, Professor Lisa Jones and Dr Lucy Hope.

Qualifications needed:**Essential**

Applicants should have or be able to evidence:

- A First or Upper Second (2.1) honours degree.
- A sound understanding of, and interest in, adult mental health.
- Experience of appropriate research methods and skills.
- Ability to contribute to research study design.
- Computer literacy.
- Ability to organise and meet deadlines.
- Good interpersonal skills.
- Ability to work independently and contribute to a team.
- Commitment and an enthusiastic approach to completing a higher research degree.
- Full UK driving licence.

Desirable

- Masters degree in a relevant area, or expect to receive one by January 2017.
- A sound understanding of perinatal mental health and/or women's health.
- Experience of undertaking empirical research.

As part of its mission statement the University is committed to widening participation for its higher degrees. Although most candidates will have an undergraduate and/or Masters degree, the University is happy to accept applications from candidates with relevant professional qualifications and work related experience.

The University of Worcester

Research at the University of Worcester has grown significantly over the last 10 years. This growth is most clearly shown in the outcomes of the Research Excellence Framework (REF 2014). Worcester was the most improved University in the UK based on Research Fortnight's "Research Power" measure, reflecting a more than four-fold increase in the number of staff submitted compared to RAE 2008 and a commensurate increase in the quality of the research. As a consequence of its REF 2014 submission, Worcester's QR income for 2015-16 is up by 341% from 2014-15.

Institute of Health & Society

The [Institute of Health & Society](#) brings together academics and researchers from across a wide range of disciplines but with a shared focus of enhancing the health and well-being of society through its education and research. Its transformational research seeks to address some of the major issues within health professions, local services, community and beyond. By pulling together academics working across disciplines to tackle important, social, scientific and environmental challenges, this research is having an impact on people's lives and helping to expand the institute's base of world-leading research. Areas of particular research strength are: mental health, dementia studies, domestic violence and abuse and palliative care.

Research School

The Research School is a focal point for all our research students. It provides:

- day-to-day support for our students, both administrative and practical, through our dedicated team
- a Research Student Study Space with both PC and laptop docking station
- a comprehensive Researcher Development Programme for students and their supervisors
- a programme of student-led conferences and seminars

Details of the studentship

During the period of your studentship you will receive the following:

- a tax free bursary of £13,863 for a period of 3 years
- a fee-waiver for 4 years
- a laptop
- use of the Research Student Study Space in Research School
- access to the Research Student Support Scheme to cover costs and expenses related to your research

You will be expected to play an active role in the life of both the Research School and of the Institute of Health & Society. You will be given opportunities to gain experience in learning and teaching within the Institute under the guidance of your supervisory team.

The Interview

The interview will provisionally be held on Wednesday 23rd November 2016. All successful applicants will be interviewed. The interview normally lasts around 3 hours in total and includes a meeting with the project supervisor(s), a chance to talk to some of our full-time students and an opportunity to view the campus and institutional facilities. You will be asked to make a short presentation on a previous piece of your own research. You will also be asked to provide an example of your written work (e.g. a previous coursework essay/assignment) ahead of the interview.

For further information or an informal discussion please contact Professor Eleanor Bradley by email at e.bradley@worc.ac.uk or Professor Lisa Jones by email at lisa.jones@worc.ac.uk.

Application forms are available at:

<http://www.worcester.ac.uk/researchstudentships>

Completed application forms should be sent by email to: research@worc.ac.uk or sent via post to: Research School, Jenny Lind Building, Henwick Grove, St Johns, Worcester, WR2 6AJ