

2010/11

Studentships

DECIPHer (Development and Evaluation of Complex Interventions for Public Health Improvement)

Nine studentships are available on a wide range of topics **including your own choice** in the fields of: social sciences, dentistry, medicine, law, economics, health information, public health, geography, statistics, qualitative and quantitative health services research, psychology and sociology.

DECIPHer (Development and Evaluation of Complex Interventions for Public Health Improvement) is a UKCRC Public Health Research Centre of Excellence. The Centre is a strategic partnership between the Universities of Cardiff

(www.cardiff.ac.uk), Bristol (www.bristol.ac.uk) and Swansea (www.swan.ac.uk), in collaboration with key organisations concerned with public health policy and practice in Wales and the South West of England.

Staff in the DECIPHer Centre undertake methodologically innovative multidisciplinary research with a focus on the development and evaluation of complex interventions and policies to achieve sustainable improvements in the health and well-being of the public, with particular emphasis on children and young people. In collaboration with other Centres in the UK, DECIPHer leads and facilitates research of

international excellence, placing emphasis on involving young people and the public, tackling health inequalities, creating new research capacity and maximising impact on, and engagement with, policy and practice in the UK and beyond.

Funding and Eligibility

The studentships include funding for either three (PhD) or four (Master's plus PhD) years for a full maintenance grant (part-ESRC funded, part university) of £13,290 per annum and a Research and Training Support Grant for PhD students of £750 per annum.

The studentships are open to UK and EU candidates. Standard ESRC rules apply.

Applicants are expected to have gained an undergraduate degree at upper second class honours (2:1) or above.

How to Apply

For full information on DECIPHer studentship opportunities across Cardiff, Bristol and Swansea universities and for application instructions, please see <http://www.decipher.uk.net/decipherstudentships.pdf> Indicative titles are available but we welcome you to contact us to discuss your specific interests and can be flexible to your interests.

Applications for specific studentships must be submitted via the standard postgraduate application process at the relevant institution

Start date: flexible.

Closing date for applications: Friday 29 January 2010

Late applications may be considered after this date.

Further information: Contact for informal enquiries or to discuss your own topic Lynnette Thomas on +44 (0)29 20874739 or thomaslm7@cardiff.ac.uk

Application process

Closing date for applications: **Friday 29 January 2010**

You must contact Lynnette Thomas, Director of Operations - DECIPHer on +44 (0)29 20874739 or thomaslm7@cardiff.ac.uk in the first instance to discuss your interest.

A potential supervisor will then be identified to discuss your proposal and application before submission.

All applications should follow the standard application for the institution, department or School and be clearly marked "*DECIPHer studentship*".

All students must submit a two page outline proposal, together with the institution's application form, CV and references.

If successful, you will be invited to be interviewed at the institution of your studentship.

You are also encouraged to read about each of the institutions, schools and departments before making your application.

Interviews will be conducted in late February/ early March 2010.

Cardiff University (four studentships available):

School of Social Sciences (<http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/socsi>)
<http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/socsi/degreeprogrammes/postgraduate/researchdegrees/howtoapply/index.html>

School of Dentistry (<http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/dentl>)
<http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/dentl/degreeprogrammes/postgraduate/index.html>

School of Medicine (<http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/medic>)
<http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/medic/degreeprogrammes/postgraduateresearch/index.html>

Cardiff Law School (<http://www.law.cf.ac.uk>)
<http://www.law.cf.ac.uk/degreeprogrammes/pg/research>

University of Bristol (Four studentships available):

Department of Social Medicine (<http://www.epi.bristol.ac.uk>)
<http://www.epi.bristol.ac.uk/postgrad/pg.htm>

Swansea University (One studentship available):

Department of Medicine (<http://www.medicine.swan.ac.uk>)
[Home - Postgraduate Programmes](#)

DECIPHer Studentships Titles and Supervisors

These titles are indicative of the topics you may be interested in. We encourage you to submit original topics , provided it is in line with public health remit of DECIPHer.

Cardiff University

School of Social Sciences

Professor Laurence Moore - moorel1@cf.ac.uk

- Understanding the barriers to rigorous evaluation of public health and health inequality policy
- The feasibility and acceptability of randomised trials of complex public health interventions
- Social network analysis of adolescent health behaviour
- Web-based technologies to support smoking cessation among young people (with Professor Glyn Elwyn and Dr Sarah Whitehead)

Dr Simon Murphy - murphys7@cardiff.ac.uk

- Health Promoting Schools and school based health improvement interventions
- Understanding family health and family based health improvement interventions

Dr Eva Elliott - elliotte@Cardiff.ac.uk

- The impact of the economic crisis on the health and well-being of children and young people
- Young people's understanding of and theories about subjective well being and its implications for public health intervention
- Developing salutogenic environments for children and young people

Professor Gareth Williams - williamsgh1@Cardiff.ac.uk

- Developing participatory action research and evaluation with children and young people
- The role of children and young people in delivering community health regeneration interventions
- Children and young people as lay public health care producers

Dr Jeremy Seggrott - segrottj@cardiff.ac.uk

- Preventing alcohol misuse in young people: the role of parents, families and schools

School of Medicine

Marianne Van Den Bree - vandenbreemb@cf.ac.uk

- Longitudinal relationships between learning disability, cognitive style and substance misuse in young people (study of already collected data)
- Substance misuse in homeless youngsters: relations with adverse experiences while growing up

Jonathan Gillard - gilliardjw@cardiff.ac.uk

Kerry Hood – hoodk1@cf.ac.uk

- Analysing outcomes of interventions with multiple primary outcomes - a comparison of methods

Professor Stephen Rollnick - rollnick@cf.ac.uk

Dr Sue Channon - channons2@cardiff.ac.uk

- Evaluating peer-led motivational interviewing in schools

(Extend a currently-funded WORD project to examine the content of audiotapes, clarify fidelity to motivational interviewing, consider the lower age-limit of this approach, develop a training procedure and consider further evaluation of efficacy.)

School of Dentistry

Dr Simon Moore - mooresc2@cardiff.ac.uk

- Normative group processes in alcohol misuse and violent crime

Professor Barbara Chadwick - chadwickbl@cardiff.ac.uk

Professor Jonathan Shepherd - shepherdjp@cardiff.ac.uk

- Is dental neglect associated with an antisocial lifestyle?

University of Bristol

Department of Social Medicine

Professor Rona Campbell - rona.campbell@bristol.ac.uk

- Using existing epidemiological data sets to explore multiple risk behaviours and resilience in children and young people (with Yoav Ben-Sholmo)
- Qualitative explorations of the relationships between alcohol use and substance misuse and other risk behaviours (with Matt Hickman)

Dr Matt Hickman - Matthew.Hickman@bristol.ac.uk

- Longitudinal analyses of the trajectories of substance use in young people
- Longitudinal analyses of the relationships between drug use and sexual health

Department of Social Medicine – cont....

Dr Suzanne Audrey - suzanne.audrey@bristol.ac.uk

- Exploring the opportunities and barriers to ensuring a health promotion environment for looked-after children
- Health promoting school environments for children with special needs
- Translating healthy school messages to the home environment
- Exploring protective factors and resilience amongst young people who might be labelled as vulnerable

Dr Will Hollingworth - William.Hollingworth@bristol.ac.uk

- The role of economic evidence in the formulation and implementation of NICE Public Health Guidance
- Evaluating the impact of childhood obesity interventions on costs and outcomes

Professor David Gunnell - D.J.Gunnell@bristol.ac.uk

- Does self-harm share the same risk factors as substance misuse, smoking and risky sexual behaviour and to what extent do they cluster in adolescence? (with Matt Hickman)

Department of Exercise, Nutrition and Health Sciences

Dr Ashley Cooper - ashley.cooper@bristol.ac.uk

Dr Angie Page - a.s.page@bristol.ac.uk

- Social and physical environmental influences on physical activity and/or eating behaviours in children

Department of Community Based Medicine

Professor Alan Emond - alan.emond@bristol.ac.uk

- Development and evaluation of support technologies to meet the information needs of young people in schools
- Developing school based health promotion programmes for children and young people with disabilities
- Evaluation of the effectiveness of a key worker for children with complex disabilities

Swansea University

School of Medicine

[Dr Sarah Rodgers](mailto:s.e.rodgers@swansea.ac.uk) - s.e.rodgers@swansea.ac.uk

- Developing objective environment measures using geographical information system for the characterisation of obesogenic environments
- Assessing the relative contribution of social and physical environmental influences on physical activity levels in children
- Social and physical environmental influences on levels of physical activity in children (in collaboration with Ashley Cooper or Angie Page).
- Access to, and utilisation of, physical activity opportunities in rural and urban areas.
- Using routinely collected data to construct school 'health profiles', and how these might be used to inform and evaluate interventions.
- Spatial analysis of healthy and unhealthy environments for children and young people.
- Young people's social and geographical health inequalities at macro and micro scales.

[Professor Keith Lloyd](mailto:k.r.lloyd@swansea.ac.uk) - k.r.lloyd@swansea.ac.uk

- Development of a complex intervention to reduce self harm via text messaging to young people at high risk
- Use of routine data to investigate long term health outcomes for mental disorders
- Development of proxy measures for wellbeing and resilience using routinely collected health and social care data