

Care Policy and Evaluation Centre (Department of Health Policy)

PhD Studentship

The [Care Policy and Evaluation Centre](#) (CPEC) at the [London School of Economics and Political Science](#) (LSE) is an international research centre working mainly in the areas of long-term care (social care), mental health, developmental disabilities and other health issues. The Centre is affiliated to the Department of Health Policy at LSE. It has been involved in a number of key policy and practice developments.

The Centre is a member of the NIHR Three Schools' Dementia Research Programme through its partnership in the NIHR School for Social Care Research.

CPEC is currently recruiting a full-time MPhil/PhD studentship, with a start date of October 2024:

1. Differences in how dementia is understood and in attitudes to treatment and care

The successful applicants will join the [Department of Health Policy](#)'s MPhil/PhD programme and work closely with their supervisors and colleagues in CPEC at LSE.

The Department of Health Policy trains and inspires people passionate about health by advancing and challenging their understanding of health and social care systems and the social, economic and political contexts in which they operate. The Department's PhD programme is an integral part of the academic environment at LSE, producing doctoral graduates of the highest quality. The programme draws upon multidisciplinary perspectives, notably from economics, health policy, social policy, and public policy.

The research students will benefit from the excellent research environment within CPEC at LSE and will join a thriving cohort of research students in the Department.

Entry requirements

Applicants are not required to have existing expertise on the topic, but they must meet the requirements for PhD applicants set by the LSE (see <http://www.lse.ac.uk/health-policy/study/mphilphd-programme>). Applicants will normally need master's degree marks equivalent to an LSE high merit grade, with an overall average of at least 65% in their MSc (or equivalent) and at least 65% in their dissertation (or equivalent); any conditional offer for a place on the MPhil/PhD programme will be subject to obtaining such marks.

Application process

In order to be considered for the studentship, applicants should apply for the MPhil/PhD programme in Health Policy at the LSE, marking their application with "Dementia CPEC studentship". Information about how to apply is available here: <http://www.lse.ac.uk/health-policy/study/mphilphd-programme>.

As part of the application process applicants will be asked to submit a research proposal. This is a 2,500-word document explaining - in light of the topic focus for the studentship - the research that the applicant proposes to undertake during the studentship. Along with an application form supporting documents are required and further information on these (as well as guidance on completing the application form) is available at <http://www.lse.ac.uk/study/graduate/enquirer/howToApply/completingYourApplication/home.aspx>.

The deadline for applications for this PhD Studentship is 19 March 2024.

Differences in how dementia is understood and in attitudes to treatment and care: implications for equity of access to effective health and social care support

Three-year PhD Studentship

This full-time studentship is funded through the NIHR Three Schools' Dementia Research Programme. The Programme is a collaboration between the three NIHR Research Schools for Primary Care, Public Health and Social Care; LSE is a member of the Social Care School. The Programme aims to develop the evidence base for dementia-related practice in England by commissioning and conducting high-quality research.

The primary aim for this three-year studentship is to investigate how individual and situational factors influence perceptions of the suitability and usefulness of treatments and services for dementia.

Studentship

There is now plenty of evidence that some pharmacological and non-pharmacological interventions, care and support arrangements can slow neurodegenerative processes and cognitive decline, encourage independence in activities of daily living, help manage behavioural symptoms and generally improve quality of life of people with dementia. There are also interventions that support family and other carers in ways that improve their health and wellbeing.

However, other strands of evidence point to quite marked differences across the population in (a) how people perceive or understand dementia, and (b) the willingness and ability of people with dementia and carers to engage with those interventions that are available or have been recommended.

Previous research suggests that these differences are in part linked to socioeconomic position, ethnicity, sex, gender, religion, place of residence and other personal and situational factors. The consequences of these differences are often substantial - and inequitable - variations in many domains: including in access to appropriate and effective dementia care, in support for carers, and therefore in health and wellbeing.

Aims

This doctoral research would aim to:

- investigate how individual and situational factors (including socioeconomic position, ethnicity, sex, gender, religion, place of residence) influence perceptions of the suitability and usefulness of treatments and services;
- understand the consequences of differences in utilisation of treatments and services (that stem from differences in perceptions etc.) for health and wellbeing; and
- explore ways in which services could be better positioned or orientated to overcome these barriers and so support / encourage engagement.

Methods

A range of methods could be employed, such as systematic or other review of relevant evidence, quantitative analysis of extant data, and/or engagement with communities, individuals and professionals.

Applicants should propose the methods they believe most appropriate to address the research aims.

Supervisors

The studentship will be supervised by two academics within LSE - Professor Martin Knapp and one colleague to be confirmed - and an external academic at UCL - Dr Nathan Davies.

Wider engagement

The successful applicant will join a cohort of approximately 14 other doctoral students funded through the NIHR Three Schools' Dementia Research Programme.

They will be expected to participate in activities organised by Dementia Programme and, as appropriate, other National Institute of Health and Care Research (NIHR) and NIHR Academy activities. The doctoral student will join a community of students benefiting from training and support within CPEC and in the Health Policy Department at LSE.

Funding

The 3-year award will cover full-time UK/EU LSE tuition fees¹ and an annual stipend of £22,000 from 1 October 2024.

Additional support (for travel, conference attendance, general research expenses) up to £5,000 will be available.

Informal enquiries

Informal enquiries should be sent to Martin Knapp (m.knapp@lse.ac.uk).

¹ Please note overseas students will need to cover the difference between overseas fees and the funded amount for home/EU fees themselves.