College of Life Sciences

3 Year PhD Studentship available for September 2018

Department: Diabetes Research Centre (Health Sciences)

Funding: College of Life Sciences Studentship which provides a tuition fee waiver at UK/EU rates and stipend at RCUK rates for 3 years.

Supervisors: Dr Alex Rowlands (alex.rowlands@le.ac.uk)
Dr Tom Yates (ty20@le.ac.uk)

Eligibility: Funding available to UK/EU applicants only

Project Title: Epidemiology of chronic disease: exploring the impact of our environment and behaviours

Project Description:

Physical behaviours across the 24 hour day (sleep, sedentary time, and time in different intensities of physical activity) and other lifestyle factors such as diet play a crucial role in determining health at an individual and population level. However, we still don’t fully understand how the environment we live in influences our lifestyle behaviours, or how the profiling of behaviours across each 24 hour day effects health. This studentship is aimed at using large datasets and statistical techniques to help answer these questions.

This PhD project will undertake epidemiological analysis on datasets available nationally, such as the UK Biobank, and regionally using collected data through the Diabetes Research Centre, University of Leicester, or through local authority data capture systems. The aim is to advance our understanding of the determinants of lifestyle and chronic disease and to generate new hypotheses for experimental investigation. The post holder will explore how environmental and demographic factors (including ethnicity) affect physical behaviours (from sleep to vigorous physical activity), diet and related factors such body mass index and how these in turn are associated with chronic disease. The student will be trained to process and analyse accelerometer data to obtain measures of physical behaviours along with numerous statistical techniques, such as Cox proportional hazards, generalised estimating equations, and years of life lost.

The PhD project will be integrated into a vibrant postgraduate research community within the Diabetes Research Centre, University of Leicester and help advance the aims of the National Institute of Health Research Leicester Biomedical Research Centre (BRU) and the
East Midlands Collaboration for Leadership in Applied Health Research and Care (CLAHRC). The student will also be supported by the Leicester Real World Evidence Unit and the Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) Centre enabling a broad portfolio of training


**Entry requirements:**

Applicants are required to hold/or expect to obtain a UK Bachelor Degree 2:1 or better in a relevant subject. The University of Leicester English language requirements apply where applicable.

**How to apply:**

Please submit your application using our [online application system](#).

Apply for Health Sciences Research /September 2018

Please include the supervisor and project title on research section of the application.

In the Funding section, select Studentship and then, in the drop-down menu, select College of Life Sciences Funded Studentship.

**Project Enquiries please contact** Alex Rowlands  Alex.rowlands@leicester.ac.uk  0116 258 8595

**Application enquiries to** pgradmissions@le.ac.uk

**Closing date for applications is 4th April 2018**