Health Sciences

3 year PhD Studentship available for September 2018 entry.

Project Title

The role of perinatal mortality investigations: how best to enable healthcare improvement and national learning?

Project Description

An exciting, cross-disciplinary doctoral studentship exploring implementation of the national standardised Perinatal Mortality Review Tool (PMRT) is available in the Department of Health Sciences, University of Leicester.

Stillbirth or the death of a newborn baby are life-changing events that significantly affect women and their families. Beyond the loss of life, adverse outcomes include maternal depression and financial costs to parents as well as long-term economic costs.

A collaboration led by MBRRACE-UK has been appointed by the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP) to develop and establish a national standardised Perinatal Mortality Review Tool (PMRT) building on the work of the Department of Health/Sands Perinatal Mortality Review ‘Task and Finish Group’, and responding to recommendations in the Report of the Morecambe Bay Investigation. The PMRT is currently being piloted and roll-out is planned in early 2018. This provides an exciting opportunity for a collaborative multi-disciplinary research studentship to study implementation of the PMRT programme, with the support of the NPEU and MBRRACE-UK team.

The student will use survey methods to map implementation of the PMRT across the UK and variance at Trust level; and ethnographic methods including observations of perinatal risk meetings, documentary review and interviews with commissioners, managers, staff and women to understand how the review tool is used locally in maternity settings, and how this enables the delivery and commissioning of safe care; and national learning and cultural change.

This studentship is suitable for someone with mixed methods research skills and with an interest in applied health services research. An undergraduate degree in health or social sciences is essential. A master’s degree in a relevant subject is highly desirable. Applications from health professionals are welcomed.

This PhD studentship will be based in the University of Leicester’s Department of Health Sciences, a multidisciplinary group of social scientists, statisticians, epidemiologists and clinicians, and will span two research groups: SAPPHIRE (Social Science APPlied to Healthcare Improvement Research) and TIMMS (The Infant Mortality and Morbidity Studies). The student will be supervised by Dr Nicola Mackintosh, an Associate Professor in Social Science applied to Health based in SAPPHIRE, and Professor Elizabeth Draper, Professor of Perinatal and Paediatric Epidemiology based in TIMMS research groups. The Department of Health Sciences has a thriving doctoral student community, with 48 PhD and 10 MD students.
Informal enquiries prior to the closing date are welcome and may be directed to either supervisor Dr Nicola Mackintosh nicola.mackintosh@le.ac.uk and Professor Elizabeth Draper msn@le.ac.uk

Funding

The studentships will last for three years and cover:
**Fees** - full-time registration covering full UK/EU tuition fees for three years.
**Enhanced Stipend** - an annual tax-free stipend of £17,500pa
**Enhanced Research Training Support Grant** – an enhanced research training support grant (including travel allowance) of £1,500pa.
**Writing Up Fees** - writing up fee (currently £100)

Eligibility
Home and EU students only are eligible

To Apply
Apply for Health Sciences Research using our online application system

In the Research Proposal section of the application indicate the name of the Supervisor and Project you are applying for. You do not need to upload a proposal.

Standard English Language requirements apply where applicable