3 Year PhD Studentship available for September 2019

Funded by THIS Institute (The Healthcare Improvement Studies Institute)

Department: Health Science

Supervisors: Dr Nicola Mackintosh and Dr Nicola Bateman

Eligibility: UK / EU applicants only

Project Title: The role of visual management tools for the coordination of teams in healthcare

Project Description:

An exciting, cross-disciplinary doctoral fellowship on the collaborative and coordination roles of electronic and paper-based systems in healthcare for team decision making is available in the Department of Health Sciences, University of Leicester. This fellowship is part of a programme of PhD fellowships in healthcare improvement research, funded by THIS Institute (The Healthcare Improvement Studies Institute).

In healthcare, information and communications technology (ICT) creates new opportunities for collaborative and cooperative work, helping to integrate and coordinate the contributions from individuals over the course of a patient’s stay. Electronic whiteboards and patient management systems offer a way for staff to manage and share ‘situated awareness’ in complex environments. However, traditional paper-based systems also fulfil important coordinating functions which, in some situations, may be better suited for the complexities of clinical collaboration, communication and workflows.

This fellowship will examine use of electronic and paper-based systems, tensions between their managerial and professional functions, and the trade-offs healthcare workers employ in their use to balance quality, safety and efficiency. This is an important study given the dearth of research examining how different systems perform in everyday management as well as clinical work in public health care institutions.

The fellow will map use of these systems across different healthcare contexts and employ ethnographic methods including observations, interviews together with process mapping to understand the role of these systems in two case study sites.

This fellowship is suitable for someone with qualitative research skills, and an interest in the use of visual tools to inform decision making and applied health services research. An undergraduate degree either in health sciences, social sciences or studies including operations management is essential. A master’s degree in a relevant subject is highly desirable. Applications from health
professionals are welcomed. Experience in both a healthcare setting and operations management is highly desirable.

This doctoral fellowship 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 the School of Business. The student will be jointly supervised by Dr Nicola Mackintosh, an Associate Professor in Social Science applied to Health based in SAPPHIRE, and Dr Nicola Bateman, Associate Professor in Operations Management based in the School of Business. The Department of Health Sciences has a thriving doctoral student community, with 48 PhD and 10 MD students.

The fellow will start in September 2019 and complete within 3 years or within 4 years if a 1+3 pathway is applied (a 1 year MSc in Quality and Safety in Healthcare followed by 3 year PhD). The student will join a cohort of THIS Institute’s PhD fellows and attend annual meetings in Cambridge.

Applications should be submitted by 18th March 2019. Informal enquiries prior to this date are welcome and may be directed to either supervisor. Interviews are scheduled for w/c April 8th 2019.

Funding details:

The fellowship will last for three or four years (3 years or within 4 years if a 1+3 pathway is applied) and cover:
- **Fees** - full-time registration covering full UK/EU tuition fees for three or four years.
- **Enhanced Stipend** - an annual tax-free stipend of £25,000pa
- **Conference related costs** (including travel allowance) - £2,000pa
- **Research related costs** - £2,000pa

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:

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

Apply for a PhD in [Health Sciences](#)

In the funding section of the application please indicate you wish to be considered for a [Health Sciences/THIS Fellowship](#)

In the proposal section please provide the name of the supervisor and project

**Project / Funding Enquiries:** Dr Nicola Mackintosh, [nicola.mackintosh@le.ac.uk](mailto:nicola.mackintosh@le.ac.uk)

**Application enquiries to** [pgradmissions@le.ac.uk](mailto:pgradmissions@le.ac.uk)

**Closing date for applications 18th March 2019**