



NEW VACANCIES, PUBLISHED 7 AUGUST 2009

DEPARTMENT OF APPLIED SOCIAL SCIENCE, UNIVERSITY OF STIRLING

Three ESRC 1+3 PhD STUDENTSHIPS

e-Health Infrastructure: Capacity Building PhD Studentships

(Minimum stipend £13.3k p.a., subject to eligibility)

The Department of Applied Social Science at the University of Stirling has three vacancies for 1+3 ESRC funded PhD studentships in the field of 'e-Health Infrastructure'¹.

Three 4-year fully funded PhD studentships are available. They concern the topics:

- 1. Social care and social structure***
- 2. Mental health and social structure***
- 3. Security oriented data-linkage techniques for e-Health***

The studentships seek to exploit existing e-Health data resources for the purposes of social science research. The studentships are linked to the ESRC 'Data Management through e-Social Science' research Node (www.dames.org.uk). The DAMES Node is itself one component of the wider e-Health infrastructure, but the studentships will engage with a range of other e-Health data resources (such as the Scottish Health Informatics Platform).

The studentships are available to outstanding social science graduates with an interest in health and social care research and a capacity to develop their skills in quantitative data analysis and computer programming; and/or to computer science graduates with a demonstrable capacity to understand and engage in quantitative social science research. The successful candidates will have good undergraduate degrees (1st class or 2.1) in a relevant social science or computer science; and a clear commitment to the high standards of scholarship and effort required to work in this inter-disciplinary field.

Closing date for applications: 26 August 2009

Interviews will be held on 31 August 2009 at the University of Stirling

The studentships are scheduled to commence in mid-September 2009.

¹ 'e-Health' data refers to electronic records associated with health data. The e-Health Infrastructure refers to a number of related existing initiatives which facilitate access to and linkage with such digitized data for the purposes of social science research. Applicants for these studentships are not ordinarily expected to be familiar with existing e-Health resources, though previous experience in the field would be beneficial.

Programme and Topics

The studentships are fully funded covering annual fees and a maintenance stipend (approx £13.3k p.a.), subject to eligibility. The studentships are funded by the UK ESRC (<http://www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk>). An option is available to apply competitively for an additional stipend of £3k p.a (on application for an ESRC Enhanced Stipend for Quantitative Methods).

The PhD programme will commence with participation for 1-year on the Department of Applied Social Science MSc in Applied Social Research (September 2009-August 2010). This is known as the '1' component of the 1+3 studentship. The programme will then involve undertaking original research for a PhD for the following 3 years (the '+3' component), on the specified topic.

- Studentship 1 involves exploring and analysing e-Health data related to social care needs and costs in the context of population change. The +3 component of Studentship 1 will be located at the Department of Applied Social Science, supervised by Prof. Alison Bowes (Sociology) and Prof. David Bell (Economics).
- Studentship 2 involves accessing and analysing data on mental health prevalence and its relationships to social-structural inequalities. The +3 component of Studentship 2 will be located at the Department of Applied Social Science, supervised by Dr Paul Lambert (Sociology), Prof. Margaret Maxwell (Nursing and Midwifery) and Prof. Richard Sinnott (Computer Science, University of Glasgow).
- Studentship 3 will work alongside the SHIP (Scottish Health Informatics Platform) collaborators at NeSC and focus in particular upon development of algorithms and techniques for secure data access and linkage targeted to the specific needs of e-Health and the realities of dealing with the large scale complex clinical data sets provisioned through SHIP. The +3 component of Studentship 3 will be located at the National e-Science Centre, University of Glasgow, supervised by Prof. Richard Sinnott (Computer Science) and Dr Paul Lambert (Sociology, Univ. Stirling).

The qualities of the suitable candidates will vary according to the studentship applied for. Prior experience of data infrastructures would be especially beneficial to Studentship 3. All three students will undertake further training on methods of social science data analysis and data management over the course of the project, engaging with the DAMES research Node. The research activities of the DAMES Node involve exploiting new computer science approaches for the benefit of social science research. PhD training in this field offers excellent future employment prospects.

Further Particulars

These 1+3 studentships will support study for a 4 year doctoral programme (fee support and living expenses). Applicants must be UK residents or EU citizens. Non-UK EU citizens will only receive fee support and not living expenses unless they have lived in the UK for the last 3 years. The annual stipend for the studentship covers tuition fees, £750 research expenses, and £13,290 living expenses. See www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk for further information on 1+3 ESRC studentships.

Interested candidates may contact **Dr Paul Lambert**, paul.lambert@stirling.ac.uk, for informal advice on these positions.

Applications should be made by sending: a short CV; names of two referees; a covering letter explaining your interest in the studentship; and by forwarding the message overleaf to the two referees alongside these particulars. Applications should be sent to:

Morag Crawford
Department of Applied Social Science
University of Stirling, FK9 4LA

01786 467692
morag.crawford@stirling.ac.uk
<http://www.dass.stir.ac.uk/>

Appendix: Notice for Referees

Dr Paul Lambert
Department of Applied Social Science
University of Stirling
Stirling
FK9 4LA
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7 August 2009

Dear Referee,

ESRC 1+3 Studentships: e-Health Infrastructure

We are currently advertising vacancies for three 1+3 ESRC studentships intended to develop capacity in using the UK's 'e-Health Infrastructure'. These vacancies are associated with a research project called 'Data Management through e-Social Science' (www.dames.org.uk), on which I am principal investigator.

We hope to recruit for these vacancies in a short time period, and accordingly we would be extremely grateful if you could send us a short reference regarding the candidate who has contacted you at the earliest possible opportunity, and **before 26 August 2009**. We would be grateful if your reference would comment upon your relation to the candidate, and your views on their suitability to undertake a PhD programme in this interdisciplinary field (which combines social science research, quantitative methods and social statistics, and computing applications).

Please send your reference to

Morag Crawford
Department of Applied Social Science
University of Stirling
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01786 467692
morag.crawford@stirling.ac.uk
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Please feel free to contact me directly if you require further information on this post.

Thank you in advance

Dr Paul Lambert, Department of Applied Social Science, University of Stirling.