



DOCTORAL SCHOLARSHIPS AT LONDON SOUTH BANK UNIVERSITY 2017-2018

Thank you for your enquiry about funded Doctorates at London South Bank University. The closing date is 24 November at 5pm. If shortlisted you will be called to interview on Wednesday 13 December. Please send your application to Professor Sally Hardy sally.hardy@lsbu.ac.uk and copied to Professor Nicola Thomas nicola.thomas@lsbu.ac.uk

We have the following funding available. There is additional information on each option at the end of this section.

1. Funding for one full time doctoral scholarship attached to existing research streams. Scholarships may be full time for three years and include an annual stipend of £15000. Applicants will be expected to contribute to the body of work of the research supervisor and publish and demonstrate public engagement and impact during the scholarship. All applicants are expected to have a Master's degree in a relevant subject, plus knowledge of the subject area. Previous research experience is preferred.
2. Funding via a full fee waiver for one part-time PhD, in a topic area of your choice.
3. Match funding with an employer for one or two PhDs, likely to be part-time, in a topic area of your choice. This means that the university would pay half the fees and the Trust/employer would pay the other half.

Option 1

For this option please submit a 1000 word maximum supporting statement explaining why you wish to be considered for **one** of these scholarships. The scholarships are shown in Appendix A.

Options 2 and 3. Proposal for a study that is within your area of interest.

For these options please send us your research proposal of 2000-3000 words and clearly identify if you are interested in option 2 or 3. If option 3 then please provide details of the funder who will match-fund your fees. The proposal should include the following:

Background and rationale for the proposed study
Short literature review to identify the other work in this area
Research question
Methodology
Methods
Ethical issues
Implications for practice

Further enquiries about these options to Professor Nicola Thomas nicola.thomas@lsbu.ac.uk



APPENDIX A: SCHOLARSHIPS ATTACHED TO EXISTING RESEARCH STREAMS

1. The experience of younger people in the shared decision-making process in advanced kidney care

This study is based on a previous study involving older people (>70 years)
<https://www.hindawi.com/journals/bmri/2016/7859725/>

The previous study was co-produced with patients and carers and the study was commended for patient involvement.

This qualitative study is designed to understand the experiences of younger people (17-30 years), when making a decision about renal replacement therapy. Younger people are known to have specific challenges when transitioning from paediatric to adult units, and these experiences might influence their dialysis decision.

An Involvement Group comprised of young people will be developed and will undertake volunteer and research training. The group will be involved in all aspects of the study, including developing the proposal, identifying the interview questions and will interview people who have recently commenced dialysis (in the previous 6 months). An evaluation of the impact of involving patients and carers in the research design will also be part of this study. It is anticipated that the study will be conducted across a number of Trusts in London and SE England.

Informal enquiries to: Professor Nicola Thomas nicola.thomas@lsbu.ac.uk

2. Thermal Grill Illusion and pain.

This project is investigating the pain response to the thermal grill illusion. The thermal grill illusion utilises two concurrent non-noxious stimuli which produces a burning like pain sensation of the individual. The exact mechanism for this response is still unknown but is thought to involve the interaction of peripheral neuronal firing and supraspinal decision-making and the context of 'the self'. We intend to reconsider the illusion under a new and emerging framework of Predictive Processing.

Preference will be given to applicants who can demonstrate a knowledge and interest in the activity and analysis of pain related behavioural data (psychophysics).

Informal enquiries to: Dr Michael Thacker michael.thacker@lsbu.ac.uk

3. Acupuncture and the Rubber Hand

This project is investigating the response to acupuncture applied to surrogate body parts. We have previously shown that acupuncture applied to a rubber hand that has been embodied via the rubber hand illusion is able to produce an array of psychophysical responses consistent with pain modulation



(reduction). The exact mechanism for this response is still unknown but is thought to involve the interaction of peripheral neuronal firing and supraspinal decision making and the context of 'the self'. We intend to reconsider these phenomena under a new and emerging framework of Predictive Processing.

Preference will be given to applicants who can demonstrate a knowledge and interest in theories of pain (Pain Gate, Neuromatrix, Predictive Processing).

Informal enquiries to: Dr Michael Thacker michael.thacker@lsbu.ac.uk

4.Co-designing interventions to manage fatigue in adults who survive a critical illness.

Fatigue affects individuals cognitively, physically and socially for several years after their discharge from ICU. Other authors have also linked fatigue to sleep disturbances and severity of illness (Celik et al., 2016; Day et al., 2013). To date, however, limited research has examined fatigue after critical illness or investigated potential therapeutic interventions designed to reduce and/or prevent fatigue and mitigate its impact.

This will be a mixed methods approach, grounded in the MRC framework (2008) and will focus on understanding the experience of fatigue from the perspective of service users, and on co-producing and pilot testing a theory based intervention aimed at mitigating the effects of fatigue after critical illness.

Informal enquiries to Dr Suzanne Bench suzannebench@lsbu.ac.uk

5. The provision of cancer care in London.

Cancer is a complex disease and treatment is becoming more complex. The aim of this project is to understand demand for cancer care and how it might be better met. This project examines how cancer care is delivered, how it can be delivered more efficiently and what kind of workforce might be needed to deliver care in the future.

This project is funded by HEE and offers the opportunity to work in partnership with an experienced team, industry partners (Wolfram) NHS and charitable organisations.

Preference will be given to applicants from a clinical, data science, engineering, science, business, mathematics or other quantitative background who can develop skills in modelling systems. An interest in analytical methods is essential.

Informal enquiries to Professor Alison Leary alisonleary@yahoo.com