



BIRMINGHAM CITY
Faculty of Health, Education
and Life Sciences

The Faculty of Health, Education and Life Sciences (HELS) is based at our City South Campus. The Faculty has a strong focus on the training of health and education professionals with a rapidly growing life sciences portfolio.

HELS is making major investments in growing the quality and volume of research across its three constituent Schools (The Schools of Education and Social Work, Health Sciences, and Nursing and Midwifery) through investments in academic staff and researchers, doctoral students and new labs and equipment. Excellence in Nursing, Health Sciences and Education is essential for the development of new solutions to major societal challenges including the Ageing Population; Sustainability and Health and is driven by the faculties two research Centres: The Centre for Studies in Practice and Culture in Education (CSPACE) and the Centre for Social Care, Health and Related Research (CSCHaRR).

HELS is seeking to recruit a scholar to undertake a Graduate Research and Teaching Assistant (GRTA) post in the area of improving health and wellbeing in Birmingham, UK.

Graduate Research & Teaching Assistants (GRTA):

GRTA opportunities at Birmingham City University provide you with an opportunity to study for a PhD whilst gaining experience as an Assistant Lecturer on a funded, four-year programme. The GRTA payments consist of two elements:

1. 0.75 GRTA DTG - tax-free stipend paid monthly and has a current (2019/20) value of £11,257 per annum. The bursary is renewable annually for up to 48 months in total, subject to you making satisfactory progression within your PhD research.
2. 0.25 fixed term contract of employment (Assistant Lecturer) - renewable for up to 48 months in total, subject to satisfactory performance and progression within your PhD research. Please note that the pro rata salary for 2017-18 will be £7,213 (and this may be subject to some taxation).

This funding model also includes a FT Home fees studentship (£4,327 for 2019-20) for up to 4 years, subject to you making satisfactory progression within your PhD research.

If you are interested in a career in academia, working as a GRTA enables you to develop a range of transferable skills while building up vital work experience in your field.

GRTA opportunities are open to UK, EU and Overseas applicants. All applicants will receive the same stipend irrespective of fee status, however international applicants may be required to meet the difference in fee costs from their own funds.

How to apply

The closing date for applications is 23.59 on Wednesday 1st May 2019.

To apply, please complete the [project proposal form](#) and then complete the [online application](#) where you will be required to upload your proposal in place of a personal statement.

You can find further details on studying for a PhD and details of how to apply [here](#)

Project title: Improving Health and Wellbeing Using a Mobile Health Unit (REF: GRTAMOB)

To discuss the research proposal in more detail, please contact:

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GP surgeries in the UK are facing an unprecedented demand for their services (NHS England, 2018b), as well as a diminishing GP workforce (BMA, 2018c), and the likelihood of an increasingly unhealthy aging population (Government Office for Science, 2016). In addition to difficulties in accessing primary care services, mental health services face similar challenges. Many people report a reluctance to access mental health services as well as difficulty in accessing these services, particularly young people and those from Black and Minority Ethnic groups (Memon, et al., 2016; Salaheddin & Mason, 2016). When patients are not able to access services within an adequate timeframe, their conditions may worsen, putting additional pressure on A&E departments to provide extra care. Recently A&E departments have also seen a large increase in demand for services (NHS England, 2018a)

Additionally, hard-to-reach populations are less likely to be able to access care, whether due to geographical isolation, lack of local support, or problems with access to transportation (NHS England, 2018c). Mobile health units have been proposed as a way to ameliorate clinician workload, as well as to bridge gaps in service provision due to difficulty accessing services (NHS England, 2018c).

This PhD aims to explore the use of a mobile health unit as a way of delivering health and wellbeing services to communities in Birmingham, UK, and is part of a partnership between Birmingham City University, Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health Trust and Birmingham City Council.

Applicants may choose how to address this topic; the approach and design should be detailed in the proposal submitted as part of the application. We would be particularly interested in hearing from candidates with interest in pursuing a proposal in one of the following areas:

1. Organisational research such as integration and collaboration of different organisations and/or the impact of expansion of health provision hours.
2. Psychological and mental health research – do people respond better to an outreach facility than traditional mental health and healthcare services, and does it improve health and wellbeing outcomes?
3. Service user characteristics and demographics – who accesses the bus and why?
4. The use of data to inform services in the community

We welcome applications from those who meet the following criteria:

Applicant Requirements:

Essential:

- Upper second class BSc (Hons) Degree in a health-related discipline
- Good understanding of both quantitative and qualitative research methods
- Good communication skills
- Good writing ability

Desirable:

- MSc in Health Psychology, Psychological or Health Research Methods, Public Health (or similar)
- Postgraduate/advanced level quantitative statistical analysis
- Advanced experience of qualitative data analysis

References:

British Medical Association (BMA) (2018). GP workforce figures are 'damning progress report' on government pledge to recruit more doctors, says BMA. [Online]. Available from: <https://www.bma.org.uk/news/media-centre/press-releases/2018/may/gp-workforce-figures-are-damning-progress-report-on-government-pledge-to-recruit-more-doctors> (last accessed 31.08.18).

Government Office for Science (2016). Future of an Aging Population. [Online]. Available from: https://www.ageing.ox.ac.uk/files/Future_of_Ageing_Report.pdf (last accessed 31.08.18).

Memon, A., Taylor, K., Mohebati, L., Sundin, J., Cooper, M., Scanlon, T., & de Visser, R. (2016). Perceived barriers to accessing mental health services among black and minority ethnic (BME) communities: a qualitative study in Southeast England. *BMJ Open*; 6: e012337. doi: 10.1136/bmjopen-2016-012337.

NHS England (2018a). A&E Attendances and Monthly Admissions. [Online]. Available from: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/ae-waiting-times-and-activity/> (last accessed 31.08.18).

NHS England (2018b). GP Patient Survey. [Online]. Available from: <https://gp-patient.co.uk/surveysandreports> (last accessed 31.08.18).

NHS England (2018c). Improving Access for All: Improving inequalities in access to general practice services. [Online]. Available from: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/inequalities-resource-march18.pdf> (last accessed 31.08.18).

Salaheddin, K., and Mason, B. (2016). Identifying barriers to mental health help-seeking among young adults in the UK: A cross-sectional survey. *British Journal of General Practice*; 66(651): e686-e692. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3399/bjgp16X687313>.