



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).

Research in the School of Nursing and Midwifery at Birmingham City University has a focus on clinically relevant studies. We are seeking proposals for a PhD study that will explore how knowledge mobilisation techniques may be used to address maternal obesity in Birmingham.

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: Moving evidence into practice: using knowledge mobilisation theory to address maternal obesity in Birmingham. (REF: GRTAOBE)

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

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Maternal obesity is an increasing phenomenon that has a detrimental impact on maternal and neonatal outcomes¹. The way in which midwives address obesity has been investigated qualitatively², however little attention has been paid to how midwives could be supported to provide more effective interventions to reduce obesity. Knowledge mobilisation can, at its simplest, be defined as moving knowledge to where is most useful³; it involves concerted efforts to create, share and use research and other forms of knowledge. Many knowledge mobilisers recognise that knowledge sharing is relational, constructed from social interaction⁴ and context specific⁵.

The purpose of this project is to

1. Find effective ways in which to move existing and new knowledge about maternal obesity to midwives and women.
2. Co-design, implement and evaluate strategies for shared understanding between midwives and women that will support reduction in maternal obesity in the local area.

Candidates should have a strong academic background and relevant professional experience. In the Graduate Research & Teaching Assistant role, the candidate will be expected to contribute to teaching and related activity for midwifery and evidence-based practice.

References:

1. Usman R, McAree T, Bassett P, Sharma S. The implications of a raised maternal BMI: a DGH experience, *Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology*. Informa health care Mar 16, 2012
2. Atkinson S, McNamara PM. Unconscious collusion: An interpretative phenomenological analysis of the maternity care experiences of women with obesity (BMI \geq 30 kg/m²). *Midwifery*. 2017 Jun 1;49:54-64.
3. Ward V. Why, whose, what and how? A framework for knowledge mobilisers. *Evid Policy* 2017; 13:477–97.
4. Ferlie E, Crilly T, Jashapara A, *et al*. Knowledge mobilisation in healthcare: a critical review of health sector and generic management literature. *Soc Sci Med* 2012; 74:1297–304.
5. Cowdell F Knowledge mobilisation: an ethnographic study of the influence of lay mindlines on eczema self-management in primary care in the UK. <https://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/8/8/e021498>