



QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST

*Title of studentship	Medicines optimisation for frail older people in primary care
Value / what is covered?	Fully funded 100% of UK/EU tuition fees paid and an annual stipend for UK residents only (living expenses), currently at £14,553
Awarding body	DFE
Number of studentships	1
*Summary descriptive text / Example of research project	Frailty can be viewed as a long-term condition, and it is believed that some aspects may be improved with appropriate interventions or therapy. Identification of frailty in older people (conventionally thought of as those aged 65 years and over) by general practices is becoming increasingly more routine. This aims to proactively identify those patients living with frailty who may benefit from evidence-based interventions. There is currently limited research on how to improve medication usage in frail older individuals, and how knowledge of an older person's frailty status may be of use to primary health care professionals with respect to medicines optimisation. This mixed-methods project will seek to explore primary healthcare professionals' knowledge and understanding of frailty, identify priority medicines optimisation issues for older people with frailty, and investigate how primary healthcare professionals can potentially enhance medication use/medicines optimisation in this vulnerable patient population. The successful candidate will gain skills in both quantitative and qualitative research methodologies, which are widely used in health services research.
*Supervisor(s)	Dr. Heather Barry, Prof. Carmel Hughes
*Eligibility / residence Status	UK/EU only
Country	Northern Ireland
*Start date and duration	1 October 2018 Funding covers a three-year full-time PhD.
*Faculty	MHLS
*Research centre / School	Pharmacy

Subject area	Healthcare delivery and medicines optimisation
Candidate requirements / Key skills required for the post	Applicants should have a 1st or 2.1 honours degree (or equivalent) in a relevant subject. Relevant subjects include Pharmacy, Molecular Biology, Pharmaceutical Sciences, Biochemistry, Biological/Biomedical Sciences, Chemistry, Engineering, Psychology, Social Sciences or a closely related discipline. Students who have a 2.2 honours degree and a Master's degree may also be considered, but the School reserves the right to shortlist for interview only those applicants who have demonstrated high academic attainment to date
*Deadline for applications	31 January 2018
*How to apply / contacts	Postgraduate Research applicants for Pharmacy who are interested in applying for a fully funded DFE studentship must have applied to Queen's, via the Direct Applications Portal, and submitted all required supporting documents by the closing date, which will be announced later in the Academic year. https://dap.qub.ac.uk/portal/user/u_login.php
Relevant links / more information	http://www.qub.ac.uk/schools/SchoolofPharmacy/Research/PostgraduatePositions/ http://www.qub.ac.uk/schools/SchoolofPharmacy/Research/
Keywords for search filters	Older people, frailty, primary care, healthcare professionals, medicines optimisation
Training provided through the research project	The successful candidate will receive training in relevant quantitative and qualitative research methodologies and other generic research skills, such as delivering presentations, scientific writing/writing for publication, and time management.
Expected impact activities	This project will provide a clearer understanding of the gaps in the evidence-base on medicines optimisation for frail older people in primary care