

Funded PhD Opportunity in the School of Nursing and Midwifery at Queen's University Belfast 2020-21

The School of Nursing and Midwifery, in collaboration with the Centre for Evidence and Social Innovation at Queen's University Belfast is delighted to announce an opportunity to apply for a fully funded PhD Studentship.

Title: Social Participation and Quality of life in disabled young adults.

Click here for the proposal document.

Applicants must have at least a 2.1 degree (or equivalent) in a relevant subject area.

The closing date for this application is **5pm, Friday 19 March 2021.**

Interviews are anticipated to take place online, on 19th or 20th April 2021.

Apply using our online Postgraduate Applications Portal go.qub.ac.uk/pgapply and follow the step-by-step instructions on [how to apply](#).

When prompted, applicants should supply a cover letter (max 2 pages long) outlining their suitability for the project, rather than a proposal document. [The cover letter should be uploaded with your application, instead of a proposal]

Within this document, please provide evidence to support the following additional criteria for this opportunity;

- Experience of working with people with disabilities
- Experience of quantitative survey methods
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills

The full-time studentship is funded by the Northern Ireland Department for the Economy (DfE) and is supported through collaboration with Adult Cerebral Palsy (CP) Hub. Adult CP Hub is a charitable organisation which provides information and support on the impact of CP on adults across the UK. The aims of Adult CP Hub are to raise awareness, develop best practice, support the development of bespoke medical services, educate the medical profession, facilitate community support and act as an advocacy group for people with CP to policy makers.

Funded studentships may cover maintenance and fees for a maximum of three years, depending on residency status. For further details about eligibility criteria (including academic, citizenship and residency criteria) please click on the DfE Research Eligibility Guidance

Notes: <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/department-economy-studentships>.

The University is committed a policy of equal opportunity. Prospective students with a disability or long term condition are encouraged to disclose as early as possible in the application and selection process by contacting admissions@qub.ac.uk. Upon disclosure the University will ensure appropriate reasonable adjustments and additional supports can be put in place for applicants. Reasonable adjustments and additional supports will be determined on an individual basis, in line with the course entry requirements to ensure selection standards are maintained.

Proposal Document for 2021 Collaborative Studentship commencing September 2021

Title: Social Participation and Quality of life in disabled young adults.

Supervision Team: Dr Mark Linden, QUB (Primary Supervisor), Dr Claire Kerr, QUB (Supervisor), Ms Emma Livingston (Adult CP Hub, CEO)

Background:

This project links to a broader research programme across nine European regions called SPARCLE (Study of Participation of Children with Cerebral Palsy Living in Europe), which has examined the QoL and social participation of the same individuals as children and adolescents with cerebral palsy (CP) over time (Colver et al. 2015; Dang et al. 2015). Combining the new quantitative data this project will generate, with those from the previous SPARCLE UK research, enables a life-course approach to examine influences on social participation and QoL for these individuals as young adults.

Aim: To understand the interrelationship between an individual's life with impairments and their broader social context and how this shapes their social participation and quality of life (QoL) in adulthood.

Research questions:

1. What are the specific ways that disability leads to differences in disabled young adults' social participation across key domains of employment, education, leisure, housing and romantic relationships, in comparison to non-disabled young people?
2. Which environmental and social factors have positive or negative impacts on the social participation and QoL of disabled young adults?
3. How do impairments and environments interact to shape modes of social participation and QoL?
4. How do social participation and QoL change from childhood, through the transitions of adolescence and into early adulthood in the UK?

Methods:

This project will gather new cross-sectional data which will contribute to existing and longitudinal data from a prospective cohort of disabled young adults. As in previous SPARCLE studies, we will use quantitative surveys to measure individuals' personal characteristics, family and community environments, social participation and QoL. The same surveys are being used across our European network. The data will enable the development of statistical models showing the influence of individual (e.g. impairment level, family support), and community (work/education environment) level factors on social participation and QoL.

We believe it is important that our research practice is informed by dialogue with disabled young people through an advisory group. They have already fed into design of the study and will continue to advise on project management, analysis of results and dissemination of findings to ensure our interpretations are meaningful, recommendations are acceptable, and findings are publicised appropriately.

Our aim is to recruit approximately 95 young adults with CP from NI who participated in SPARCLE studies in childhood and adolescence. For each participant with CP, we will recruit one participant without a neurodisability matched on area of residence (GP practice), sex and age.

For further information please contact Dr Mark Linden m.linden@qub.ac.uk
