 **FACULTY OF MEDICINE, HEALTH AND**

**LIFE SCIENCES** **– 2 October 2023**

**PhD opportunities for advertisement on QUB Coursefinder**

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| **Supervisor Details**:  Include name, email address and link to Pure profile. | Dr Iseult Wilson, Senior Lecturer, School of Nursing and Midwifery, QUB.  [i.wilson@qub.ac.uk](mailto:i.wilson@qub.ac.uk)  <https://pure.qub.ac.uk/en/persons/iseult-wilson>  Dr Olinda Santin, Reader, School of Nursing and Midwifery, QUB.  Dr Sean O’Connor, Visiting Scholar, School of Psychology, QUB.  For further information please contact Dr Iseult Wilson, School of Nursing & Midwifery, QUB by email: [i.wilson@qub.ac.uk](mailto:i.wilson@qub.ac.uk) |
| **Project Title**:  Should be interesting and concise and reflective of the research area. | **Web-based intervention to improve physical functioning of the shoulder following surgery for breast cancer.** |
| **Duration:** 3 or 4 years. | 3 year |
| **Project Overview (50 words):** High-level summary which will be displayed in large typeface at the top of the entry. | Surgery for breast cancer has been linked to increased long-term physical and functional limitations. To address this, a prototype of a web-based, self-management resource was created by a multidisciplinary expert panel and developed using an iterative co-design approach with people who had undergone surgery for breast cancer. This prototype includes a range of rehabilitation exercises for stretching and strengthening, that are user-friendly, evidence-based and delivered by a Chartered Physiotherapist. The intervention also includes advice and signposting to further support. |
| **Project Description (200 words):** Abstract including relevant background, aims and objectives. | The aim of this PhD work is to finalise and make publicly available, this web-based rehabilitation resource, and evaluate this intervention to determine the usefulness and effectiveness of this intervention in supporting people who have surgery for BC in reducing any (potential or actual) associated physical or functional limitations of the shoulder.  **Methods**:  **Year 1:**  Refine the current prototype and complete the content using an iterative, co-design approach  Write ethics application for evaluation study  **Year 2:**  Evaluate the intervention (pre- post- test and qualitative interviews) in people who have had surgery for BC: Two groups: 1: 0 - 6 weeks post-surgery, and 2: more than 6 weeks post-surgery. These groups will include different sub-categories to ensure representation across the population, primarily: breast surgery with immediate reconstruction, breast surgery with delayed reconstruction, and breast surgery with no reconstruction.  **Year 3:**  Finalise the rehabilitation resource.  Develop an implementation plan (co-design workshops) for the rapid integration of the resource into routine care pathways.  Implement web-based resource, and measure uptake and usage behaviour.  This project has the potential to change practice and treatment and improve the patient experience and outcomes by offering a bespoke, web-based intervention, accessible to all.  **How to Apply:**  Complete the online application by clicking on the Apply now button or via this link <https://dap.qub.ac.uk/portal/user/u_login.php>. Applicants must supply a cover letter (2 pages max) detailing your interest and experience applicable to this PhD and should attach this when prompted to upload a proposal.  **Closing date: 28 February 2023**  **Anticipated interview date:  w/c 13 March 2023**  For further information please contact Dr Iseult Wilson: [i.wilson@qub.ac.uk](mailto:i.wilson@qub.ac.uk) |
| **Project Keywords (up to 5):** To support user navigation via the Course finder keyword search tool. | Web-based resource  Surgery for Breast Cancer  Rehabilitation |
| **Funding Information:** | A new full time CAST PhD Studentship is available in the School of Nursing and Midwifery, working in partnership with Cancer Focus Northern Ireland, the Belfast Health and Social Care trust and Ulster University.  Queen’s Collaborative Studentships are funded by the Department for the Economy (DfE) Northern Ireland. They require collaboration with industry, public organisations and the third sector to deliver impactful, user-informed research.  To be eligible for consideration for a DfE Studentship (covering tuition fees and maintenance stipend), a candidate must satisfy all the eligibility criteria based on nationality, residency and academic qualifications. The Studentship is open to UK and ROI nationals, and to EU nationals with settled status in the UK, subject to meeting the specific DfE nationality and residency criteria. Full eligibility information can be viewed via: [https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/publications/student-finance-postgraduate-studentships-terms-and-conditions](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.economy-ni.gov.uk%2Fpublications%2Fstudent-finance-postgraduate-studentships-terms-and-conditions&data=05%7C01%7CK.Campbell%40qub.ac.uk%7C1599eb3a8f764b7df1b008dafd5d2c43%7Ceaab77eab4a549e3a1e8d6dd23a1f286%7C0%7C0%7C638100873850125006%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=gfQfgFWuNxwoOSWUdf5KCqv7OpsUyBUT6Al2tuy2VW0%3D&reserved=0) |