



# QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST

<b>*Title of studentship</b>	Optimising use of anticholinergic drugs by people with dementia in primary care
<b>Value / what is covered?</b>	Fully funded  100% of UK/EU tuition fees paid and an annual stipend for UK residents only (living expenses), currently at £14,777
<b>Awarding body</b>	DFE
<b>Number of studentships</b>	1
<b>*Summary descriptive text / Example of research project</b>	Anticholinergic drugs are widely used in clinical practice in the management of common medical conditions such as depression and urinary incontinence. These drugs are acknowledged to cause impairments in cognitive function, and there is mounting evidence that overall anticholinergic drug use is associated with an increased risk of dementia. They also increase mortality rates in people with dementia. Many indicators of prescribing appropriateness and clinical guidelines recommend minimising the use of anticholinergic drugs in people with dementia. Despite this, recent research has shown that prescribing of anticholinergic drugs among people with dementia in primary care still remains widespread. This mixed-methods and interdisciplinary project will seek to explore key stakeholders' (e.g. dementia patients, carers, relevant healthcare professionals) perspectives of anticholinergic burden in this patient population, and how use of these drugs by people with dementia may be optimised to improve patient outcomes, without adversely affecting the management of the conditions for which anticholinergic drugs are prescribed. The successful candidate will gain skills in both quantitative and qualitative research methodologies, which are widely used in health services research.
<b>*Supervisor(s)</b>	Dr. Heather Barry (School of Pharmacy) Dr. Bernadette McGuinness (Centre for Public Health) Prof. Carmel Hughes (School of Pharmacy)
<b>*Eligibility / residence Status</b>	UK/EU only
<b>Country</b>	Northern Ireland
<b>*Start date and duration</b>	1 October 2019 Funding covers a three-year full-time PhD
<b>*Faculty</b>	MHLS

<b>*Research centre / School</b>	Pharmacy
<b>Subject area</b>	Healthcare delivery and medicines optimisation
<b>Candidate requirements / Key skills required for the post</b>	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, or a closely related discipline.
<b>*Deadline for applications</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> January 2019
<b>*How to apply / contacts</b>	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.  <a href="https://dap.qub.ac.uk/portal/user/u_login.php">https://dap.qub.ac.uk/portal/user/u_login.php</a>
<b>Relevant links / more information</b>	<a href="http://www.qub.ac.uk/schools/SchoolofPharmacy/Research/PostgraduatePositions/">http://www.qub.ac.uk/schools/SchoolofPharmacy/Research/PostgraduatePositions/</a>  <a href="http://www.qub.ac.uk/schools/SchoolofPharmacy/Research/">http://www.qub.ac.uk/schools/SchoolofPharmacy/Research/</a>
<b>Keywords for search filters</b>	Older people, dementia, primary care, healthcare professionals, medicines optimisation, anticholinergic drugs
<b>Training provided through the research project</b>	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.
<b>Expected impact activities</b>	This project will provide a clearer understanding of the gaps in the evidence-base on optimising anticholinergic drug use for people with dementia.