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| **\*Title of studentship** | An exploration of medication-related harm in people living with dementia |
| **Value / what is covered?** |  |
| **Awarding body** |  |
| **Number of studentships** | 1 |
| **\*Summary descriptive text / Example of research project** | It is estimated that there are close to 50 million people living with dementia worldwide, and this number is estimated to double every 20 years. Multimorbidity and polypharmacy are both prevalent amongst people with dementia, increasing the risk of medication-related harm. Medication-related harm is recognised as a global public health issue, as highlighted by the World Health Organisation’s global patient safety challenge, and it has been proposed that medication-related harm should be considered as a geriatric syndrome. This mixed-methods project will seek to generate evidence on the prevalence, severity and types of medication-related harm among people with dementia, and particularly within the primary healthcare setting. The project will seek to understand the context in which medication-related harm occurs in people with dementia and explore how strategies may be developed and implemented to reduce this harm and improve medication safety in this vulnerable patient population. The successful candidate will develop skills in both quantitative and qualitative research methodologies, which are widely used in health services research. |
| **\*Supervisor(s)** | Dr. Heather Barry (School of Pharmacy)  Prof. Carmel Hughes (School of Pharmacy) |
| **\*Eligibility / residence Status** |  |
| **Country** | Northern Ireland |
| **\*Start date and duration** | 1 October 2022  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, Pharmaceutical Sciences, Biochemistry, Biological/Biomedical Sciences, Chemistry, Engineering, 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** |  |
| **\*How to apply / contacts** | Postgraduate Research applicants must have applied to Queen’s, via the Direct Applications Portal.  <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, dementia, primary care, healthcare professionals, prescribing, medication-related harm, medication safety |
| **Training provided through the research project** | The successful candidate will receive training in relevant quantitative and qualitative 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 prevalence and causes of medication-related harm in people living with dementia. Findings from this work will be used to improve prescribing practices and primary care service delivery for people living with dementia, to positively impact patient satisfaction and quality of life. |