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| **\*Title of studentship** | Infection control in care homes for older people: beyond the COVID era |
| **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 **£15,285** |
| **Awarding body** |  |
| **Number of studentships** | 1 |
| **\*Summary descriptive text / Example of research project** | Care homes for older people experienced high levels of infection and death during the COVID-19 pandemic, and it is now recognized that these health care facilities were largely forgotten about and poorly resourced. This project will determine if prevalence of SARS CoV-2 and influenza in this setting can be measured using waste water-based epidemiology and near-site testing/tracking with a view to development of appropriate infection control interventions. |
| **\*Supervisor(s)** | Prof. Carmel Hughes, Dr. Deirdre Gilpin, Prof. Michael Tunney |
| **\*Eligibility / residence Status** | UK/EU |
| **Country** | Northern Ireland |
| **\*Start date and duration** | October 1st 2022  Three years full time |
| **\*Faculty** | MHLS |
| **\*Research centre / School** | Pharmacy |
| **Subject area** | Infection and Antimicrobial Resistance, Health care 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** | Care homes, older people, COVID, SARS CoV-2, influenza, infection control |
| **Training provided through the research project** | The student will receive training in relevant quantitative methodologies and the use of appropriate laboratory equipment, and other generic research skills such as project management, scientific writing, data analysis and delivering presentations |
| **Expected impact activities** | Infection control in care homes is critical due to the vulnerability of residents. This project will assess new ways in which infection control could be optimised in this setting, and offer appropriate strategies in the event of future pandemics or other areas of infection control concern |