

Care Policy and Evaluation Centre (Department of Health Policy) Three-year PhD Studentship for simulation of social care demand and expenditure

The [Care Policy and Evaluation Centre](#) (CPEC) at the [London School of Economics and Political Science](#) (LSE) is an international research centre working mainly in the areas of long-term care (social care), mental health, developmental disabilities and other health issues. The Centre is affiliated to the Department of Health Policy at LSE. It has been involved in a number of key policy and practice developments.

The Centre hosts the NIHR Policy Research Unit in Adult Social Care (ASCRU). CPEC is recruiting for a full-time MPhil/PhD studentship linked to ASCRU, with a start date of October 2025. The successful applicant will join the [Department of Health Policy's](#) MPhil/PhD programme and work closely with their supervisors and colleagues in CPEC at LSE.

The Department of Health Policy trains and inspires people passionate about health and social care by advancing and challenging their understanding of health and social care systems and the social, economic and political contexts in which they operate. The Department's PhD programme is an integral part of the academic environment at LSE, producing doctoral graduates of the highest quality. The programme draws upon multidisciplinary perspectives, notably from economics, health policy, social policy, and public policy.

The research student will benefit from the excellent research environment within CPEC at LSE and will join a thriving cohort of research students in the Department.

Entry requirements

Applicants are not required to have existing expertise on each topic, but they must meet the requirements for PhD applicants set by the LSE (see <http://www.lse.ac.uk/health-policy/study/mphilphd-programme>). Applicants will normally need master's degree marks equivalent to an LSE high merit grade, with an overall average of at least 65% in their MSc (or equivalent) and at least 65% in their dissertation (or equivalent); any conditional offer for a place on the MPhil/PhD programme will be subject to obtaining such marks.

Application process

In order to be considered for the studentship, applicants should apply for the MPhil/PhD programme in Health Policy at the LSE, marking their application with the relevant studentship name. Information about how to apply is available here: <http://www.lse.ac.uk/health-policy/study/mphilphd-programme>.

As part of the application process applicants will be asked to submit a research proposal. This is a 1,500 word document explaining - in light of the topic focus outlined for this studentship - the research that the applicant proposes to undertake during the studentship. Details of the relevant topics for this studentship are provided below. Along with an application form, supporting documents are required and further information on these (as well as guidance on completing the application form) is available at

<http://www.lse.ac.uk/study/graduate/enquirer/howToApply/completingYourApplication/home.aspx>.

The deadline for applications for the PhD Studentship is 31st March 2025.

Details of the required topic area for the studentship

This full-time studentship is funded through the NIHR Policy Research Unit in Adult Social Care (ASCRU 2), which CPEC leads. ASCRU 2 is a collaboration between the LSE, University of Kent and King's College London, carrying out research in England to provide national and local policymakers with the evidence and information they need to make decisions about adult social care.

ASCRU received funding for five years from January 2024 until December 2028. Its programme of work is decided with England's Department of Health and Social Care.

We invite applications for PhD study in the field of Social Care Economics. This exciting opportunity is open to candidates with a strong background in economics, social policy, or related disciplines, interested in addressing critical challenges in adult social care.

Successful applicants will explore economic aspects of social care, contributing to evidence-based policy and practice. Research topics may include, but are not limited to:

- **Assessment of care needs and care management**, including resource allocation and efficiency.
- **Unpaid care**, support for carers, and the balance between informal and formal care.
- **Models of care**, including the economics of community-based vs. residential care.
- **Social care information and navigation services**, supporting informed decision-making.
- **Sustainability and equity in adult social care funding systems.**
- **Social care markets**, including commissioning, competition, and provider incentives.
- **Workforce issues**, such as pay, qualifications, and retention in social care.
- **User experience of social care services**, ensuring quality and accessibility.
- **Effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of social care interventions.**
- **The interface between social care, health care, and housing**, promoting integrated support.

We seek motivated individuals with strong analytical skills and a passion for social care research.

The successful applicant will be expected to participate in activities organised by NIHR ASCRU and CPEC, and, as appropriate, other National Institute of Health and Care Research (NIHR) and NIHR Academy activities. The doctoral student will join a community of students benefiting from training and support within CPEC and in the Health Policy Department at LSE.

Funding

The 3-year award will cover full-time UK/EU LSE tuition fees¹ and an annual stipend from 1 October 2025.

Additional support (for travel, conference attendance, general research expenses) up to £3,000 will be available through the NIHR ASCRU programme as appropriate.

Informal enquiries

Informal enquiries should be sent to Raphael Wittenberg (r.wittenberg@lse.ac.uk).

¹ Please note overseas students will need to cover the difference between overseas fees and the funded amount for home/EU fees themselves.

