

## Care Policy and Evaluation Centre (Department of Health Policy)

### PhD Studentship in Adult Social Care

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.

CPEC is a member of the [NIHR School for Social Care Research](#) (NIHR SSCR). NIHR SSCR is funded by the National Institute for Health and Care Research to develop the evidence base to inform and improve adult social care practice in England through research. NIHR SSCR started in 2009 and has commissioned over 280 research projects, as well as a number of scoping and methods reviews. NIHR SSCR's fourth 5-year phase started in May 2024.

With funding through NIHR SSCR, CPEC is currently recruiting for one full-time MPhil/PhD studentship, with a start date of October 2025:

The doctoral student will be required to conduct research relevant to adult social care practice in England and in line with the NIHR SSCR's research themes (see Annex 1).

The successful applicant will be expected to participate in activities organised by NIHR SSCR, particularly activities that involve other PhD students funded under this programme at other universities, and, as appropriate, other National Institute of Health and Care Research (NIHR) and NIHR Academy activities.

The successful applicants 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 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, 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.

### Funding

The 3-year award will cover full-time UK/EU LSE tuition fees<sup>1</sup> and an annual stipend of £22,000 from 1 October 2025.

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

Additional support (for travel, conference attendance, general research expenses) will be available through the NIHR SSCR programme as appropriate.

### **Entry requirements**

Applicants are not required to have existing expertise on the 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 each 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 each studentship - the research proposed to undertake during the studentship. 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>.

### **Informal enquiries**

Informal enquiries should be sent to Professor Martin Knapp ([m.knapp@lse.ac.uk](mailto:m.knapp@lse.ac.uk)).

**The deadline for applications for this PhD Studentship is 31 January 2025.**

## **Annex 1: NIHR SSCR Business Plan Aims & Objectives and Thematic Priorities**

### **Aims and Objectives**

We aim to create an environment where excellent applied social care research, focused on the needs of the practice and the public can thrive. Practitioners, policy colleagues, and public stakeholders will engage with research from the earliest planning stages through to delivery, dissemination, and application. We aim to bridge the divide between academics and practitioners and to support practitioners in the understanding, use and generation of high-quality research evidence to inform their decisions by making our outputs practical, relevant, accessible and timely and by nurturing long-term, mutually respectful relationships of knowledge and skills exchange.

The primary aims of the SSCR are:

- to commission and conduct internationally leading social care research to improve the evidence base for effective and equitable practice;
- to support the translation of evidence into practice.

### **Thematic Priorities**

The School's research programme will cover the following key thematic areas in this context of adult social care (in no priority order).

1. Supporting choice and control for people to live flourishing lives: evaluation of feasibility, quality, impact and effectiveness of existing and new models of support.
2. Adult social care needs (met and unmet), and prevention in its broadest sense.
3. Digital and other new technologies.
4. The adult social care workforce: recruitment and retention; workforce development, skills, and training; roles development and new ways of working; challenges including equality and diversity.
5. Care resources management and allocation: eligibility; assessment; innovative approaches to funding; equality and value across self- and state-funded services; financial pressures facing adults needing support and their families.
6. Supporting carers and volunteers.
7. Communities and local area networks to promote well-being; including asset-based approaches, social prescribing; community and individual capability; personalisation; interdependency.
8. Care systems and markets: local authorities management of volume and quality in local services/markets; market-shaping and the impact on providers and others; impact of major changes (e.g. legislation/policy) to systems of care; the impact of coproduced service provision.
9. Diversity, inequality and communities/populations less well represented in research: covering areas such as variations in accessing adult social care; promising practice and support for specific user groups; coproducing solutions to challenge inequality.
10. Adult social care at the interface with other systems.

11. Appropriate development and utilisation of robust outcome measures of interest to commissioners, managers, staff, people who use services and their carers where gaps are identified.
12. Analysis of cost-effectiveness of models and intervention: ensuring that resource impacts are addressed alongside outcome impacts, and that any trade-offs are transparent.
13. Using routinely collected social care data and development of analytic tools and infrastructure for service planning, policy making, identifying inequalities, and measuring outcomes.
14. Understanding the acceptability of using individual social care records for these purposes from user, carer, family member and professional perspectives.
15. Anticipating the future: new and emerging priorities.