



The cost of bringing up a child with autism ESRC DTP Collaborative Studentship

Loughborough University and the Family Fund

The Midlands Graduate School is an accredited Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) Doctoral Training Partnership (DTP). One of 14 such partnerships in the UK, the Midlands Graduate School is a collaboration between the University of Warwick, Aston University, University of Birmingham, University of Leicester, Loughborough University and the University of Nottingham.

Loughborough University as part of Midlands Graduate School is now inviting applications for an ESRC Doctoral Studentship in association with our collaborative partner, The Family Fund, to commence in October 2018.

The student will be based at the Centre for Research in Social Policy (CRSP) in the Department of Social Sciences, and be supervised by Professors Jo Aldridge and Donald Hirsch. The research will explore a wide range of conceptual literature related to childhood autism and its impact on living costs, and involve interviews with parents and children affected by autism. Building on CRSP's pioneering work establishing a Minimum Income Standard based on deliberations by groups of citizens, the research will use focus groups of parents who have children with autism to identify the level of additional costs likely to arise where children have autism with specified characteristics. The student will have close contact with the CRSP team, and with CRSP's partners in the non-profit sector. This will include an internship with Family Fund, who give thousands of grants supporting families with disabled children, and who can help with recruiting research participants, as well as the opportunity to collaborate with the National Autistic Society.

For a fuller description of the research, [click here](#).

An essential requirement for candidates is a good first degree (2i or above) in social policy, sociology or a related discipline. A higher degree would be desirable, but for those without a Masters the programme can provide an additional year of training in research methods.

The successful candidate will need to be able to research and work with vulnerable children. An understanding of disability would be advantageous. The student will also require the interpersonal skills required to work with other researchers and third sector stakeholders, and to run focus groups effectively.

Application Process

To be considered for this PhD, please complete the Collaborative Studentship application form [available online here](#), attaching a cover letter and CV along with two references email this to Denise Wade at D.J.Wade@lboro.ac.uk.

Application deadline: Friday 16 February 2018

Interviews 2 March

Midlands Graduate School ESRC DTP

Our ESRC studentships cover fees and maintenance stipend and extensive support for research training, as well as research activity support grants. Support is available only to successful applicants who fulfil eligibility criteria. To check your eligibility, visit:

www.mgsdtp.ac.uk/studentships/eligibility/.

Informal enquiries about the research or about the Centre for Research in Social Policy prior to application can be directed to d.b.hirsch@lboro.ac.uk.