



Economic
and Social
Research Council



The Impact of Caring on Physical Disease and Mental Health Linking Census and GP Records

ESRC DTP Collaborative Studentship

University of Birmingham and the Office for National Statistics

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.

The University of Birmingham as part of Midlands Graduate School is now inviting applications for an ESRC Doctoral Studentship in association with our collaborative partner the *Office for National Statistics (ONS)* to commence in October 2021.

The PhD will examine how being an unpaid carer impacts on physical and mental health. The PhD offers a unique opportunity to work with the ONS linking population-level data sources, including the Longitudinal Study, Clinical Practice Research Database and Hospital Episodes Statistics to explore the consequences of unpaid care on a range of health outcomes and the need for new prescriptions.

The research will be conducted using a range of quantitative methods to track individuals over time and capture changes in life circumstances, unpaid caregiving and health outcomes. It will also explore trends and patterns across the lifecourse in terms of age, sex, social class and ethnicity. This work will provide insights into important inequalities in unpaid care trajectories according to these characteristics and establish an evidence base for support and interventions. The findings will provide policy makers and practitioners with evidence to better understand the implications of unpaid care on health outcomes and NHS service use.

The successful PhD student will have access to a broad range of methodological and database experts. The student will develop excellent methodological skills through access to a range of taught courses at the University of Birmingham; but also at the ONS, including the Data Science Campus (the student will have access to health statisticians and training courses). The successful PhD student will be based at the University of Birmingham and be supervised by Dr Matthew Bennett and Professor Jon Glasby.

The PhD student will also become an active member of the 'Sustainable Care Research Programme' - a multi-disciplinary ESRC-funded Large Grant (£2.54M), which the academic supervisors are Co-investigators on (<http://circle.group.shef.ac.uk/>). The programme brings together academics from twenty-two universities worldwide and takes a future-oriented and internationally comparative

look at current approaches to the care needs of adults living at home with chronic health problems or disabilities, examining these in the context of care systems, care work and care relationships.

Application Process

To be considered for this PhD, please complete the Collaborative Studentship application form [available online here](#), a cover letter and a CV and email this to sosppgr@contacts.bham.ac.uk. Shortlisted applicants will also be required to provide two references.

Application deadline: July 30th 2021 at 5pm

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 prior to application can be directed to Matthew Bennett (m.r.bennett@sheffield.ac.uk) or Professor Jon Glasby (j.glasby@bham.ac.uk).