



Investigation of the implementation, take-up and use of an online personalised platform for those who care for people with dementia

ESRC DTP Collaborative Studentship with the Midlands Graduate School

University of Warwick and Coventry & Rugby CCG, South Warwickshire CCG, and AgeUK Warwickshire

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 Warwick as part of Midlands Graduate School is now inviting applications for an ESRC Doctoral Studentship in association with our collaborative partner NHS South Warwickshire CCG and NHS Coventry and Rugby CCG to commence in October 2019.

This Studentship provides an exceptional opportunity to undertake research that is relevant to a key global challenge: the burgeoning dementia crisis. It will investigate an online intervention (the Care Companion <https://www.carecompanion.org.uk/>) to address carers' needs and now made available across Warwickshire. The Care Companion is targeted on four principle themes (burden of care, lack of knowledge, self-efficacy and lack of time) and its co-production was recently reported: <https://aging.jmir.org/2018/1/e1/>.

The Studentship will focus on how the Care Companion is helping people with dementia, and those who care for them, to lead better lives. Key research questions are:

1. What are the likely influences on the uptake and sustained use of the Care Companion?
2. In what ways is the implementation and its use influenced by the expectations and experiences of carers, those living with dementia, health care professionals, third sector organisations and commissioners?
3. How do different implementation approaches impact on uptake, and potentially on health service, social care and voluntary sector service use?

We anticipate that the research will combine established research tools and methods from qualitative health services research (including systematic and/or realist literature reviews), focus group discussions and semi-structured interviews, as well as quantitative surveys. This will be used to produce a mixed method, multi-level understanding of the Care Companion's use over time, and an analysis of barriers and facilitators that arise and their consequences.

You will work in a lively research environment with supervisors from the Unit of Academic Primary Care (Prof Jeremy Dale and Dr Helen Atherton www.warwick.ac.uk/go/apc) and Warwick Business

School (Dr Nicola Burgess <https://www.wbs.ac.uk/research/staff/?department=OHRN>). The Studentship is ideal for an individual intent on becoming a health services researcher, and the collaborative arrangements will enable you to discover how NHS, local authority and third sector organisations are tackling key health-related challenges.

Application Process

Please complete the Collaborative Studentship application form [available online here](#) together with a cover letter setting out your interest in the Studentship, along with your CV and two references. Please email this to H.McGowan@warwick.ac.uk.

Application deadline: 8th March 2019

Interviews will be held on 27th March 2019

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 Warwick Medical School prior to application can be directed to Jeremy.dale@warwick.ac.uk.