



**Economic
and Social
Research Council**



HealthTech: Critically appraising the innovation ecosystem of a transformative technology

ESRC DTP Collaborative Studentship

Loughborough University and TechNation

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 TechNation to commence in October 2020.

The aim of this studentship is to undertake the first critical academic appraisal of the innovation ecosystem around HealthTech, while at the same time providing an important evidence base for our collaborating organisation, TechNation, a UK based organisation whose mission is to make the UK the best place to imagine, start and grow a digital tech business (see <https://technation.io/about-us>).

‘HealthTech’ is a growing and highly transformative area of technology applied to some of the world's most pressing challenges. The HealthTech field unites technological solutions to healthcare, aiming to improve health with safe, secure, and appropriate technology use. In recent years the UK has seen HealthTech firms - such as Babylon and Push Doctor, which aim to provide accessible and affordable online health care services - achieve significant traction in domestic and international markets. But the term ‘HealthTech’ can also be taken to include a broader range of technologies that include wireless health monitoring and activity tracking through mobile phones and wearable tech. Such monitoring technologies not only present monetisable services in their own right but are also generating big data that is being used by a range of actors including health insurance firms, resulting in a range of privacy, information security, and equity issues.

The insights team at TechNation assess a wide range of innovative data to provide comprehensive analyses of the UK's digital economy. Their research informs start-ups, corporates and policymakers on the challenges and opportunities in the UK's thriving tech sector and underpins the data-driven approach to the work that TechNation do. The research undertaken by the PhD student will provide an important evidence base on the HealthTech ecosystem - an evidence base on which key decisions on the nature of future support schemes can be developed. It is envisaged that the main focus of the data collection for the project will be qualitative interviews with key actors in the HealthTech ‘ecosystem’. Alongside academic publications, it is envisaged that the student will produce a report of the key findings for a non-academic audience.

Application Process

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

Application deadline: Monday 2 March 2020

Midlands Graduate School ESRC DTP

Our ESRC studentships cover fees and provide a 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 Dr Allan Watson, A.Watson3@lboro.ac.uk