



Economic  
and Social  
Research Council



## **Families' experiences of genetic testing for Down syndrome**

### **ESRC DTP Collaborative Studentship**

#### **University of Warwick and Down Syndrome UK**

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 Down Syndrome UK (<http://www.downsyndromeuk.co.uk/>) to commence in October 2020. The student will be based in the Centre for Educational Development Appraisal and Research (CEDAR) with Prof Richard Hastings and in Warwick Evidence (Warwick Medical School) with Dr Chris Stanton.

The main aim of this collaborative PhD will be to contribute high quality research evidence to the national and international debate around Non-Invasive Pre-Natal Testing (NIPT), focusing on the experiences and perceptions of parents/prospective parents of the screening process for Down syndrome. The methodology will involve a rigorous synthesis of existing evidence and new data collection on current experiences of UK families. The student will conduct two evidence synthesis projects: A systematic review and meta-synthesis of international studies of parents' experiences and perceptions of genetic testing for Down syndrome, and a systematic review and meta-analysis of international research studies examining the psychological well-being and related outcomes for parents of children with Down syndrome (alongside a synthesis of qualitative studies of parents' experiences of raising a child with Down syndrome). New survey data will be collected in the UK, extending Down Syndrome UK's existing survey. The evidence syntheses and survey data will contribute to the scientific evidence base, and will also inform the campaigning work of Down Syndrome UK throughout the studentship period. The successful student will receive training and mentorship in evidence synthesis methods. Family carers' perspectives will inform the research throughout the period of the studentship, and partnership with family carers will be a central part of the dissemination of the research outputs.

#### **Application Process**

To be considered for this PhD, please complete the Collaborative Studentship application form [available online here](#), provide a full academic CV, and a cover letter explaining your interest in, and suitability for, this collaborative project and email this to [diana.smith@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:diana.smith@warwick.ac.uk). Shortlisted applicants will also be required to provide two references.

CEDAR welcomes applications from under represented groups.

**Application deadline: 4pm, Monday 2 March 2020**  
**Interviews will be held: Tuesday 10 March 2020**

**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/](http://www.mgsdtp.ac.uk/studentships/eligibility/)

Informal enquiries about the research or CEDAR or Warwick Evidence prior to application can be directed to [R.Hastings@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:R.Hastings@warwick.ac.uk) or [C.Stinton@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:C.Stinton@warwick.ac.uk).