

Tackling health inequalities through physical activity: Exploring the implementation and impact of a national system partnership

The School of Health and Social Care is offering a fully funded PhD studentship. A stipend will be paid in line with UKRI guidelines, starting at £18,622pa in 2023/24, plus Home tuition fees, for a maximum of 36 months. The start date is October 2023 or January 2024. **Interview date Tuesday 26th September 2023:**

The proposed interdisciplinary PhD is jointly funded by the University of Essex and a local social enterprise, [Sport for Confidence](#) (SFC), which places Occupational Therapists and specialist Sports Coaches into leisure centre settings to create accessible and inclusive opportunities. The studentship is focused on evaluating aspects of a [national system partnership](#) SFC has with Sport England. Key aims of the studentship will be:

1. To understand and map the national system involved in promoting physical activity amongst marginalised and seldom heard populations (to include delivery, strategic and pre-registration health education systems).
2. To examine the barriers and enablers of implementing a national system partnership.
3. To examine the impact of this work on reducing health inequalities, tackling physical inactivity, and promoting wellbeing, particularly amongst marginalised and seldom heard populations.

About us:

The student will join a vibrant school with an active cohort of doctoral students and supportive team of academics, administrators, and technicians; being supervised by three experienced members of research staff from the School of Health and Social Care and the School of Sport, Rehabilitation and Exercise Sciences: [Dr Anna Pettican](#), [Dr Paul Freeman](#) and [Dr Andrew Brinkley](#). Additionally, the student will be integrated within SFC, working as part of the organisation to support a culture of collecting and utilising data to promote learning and inform practice. To have an informal discussion about the studentship, please contact Anna, Paul, or Andrew on anna.pettican@essex.ac.uk, pfreeman@essex.ac.uk or andrew.brinkley@essex.ac.uk.

Criteria:

Essential

- BSc (2:1 or above) in Sport and Exercise Science, Psychology, Data Analytics or Health and Social Care related disciplines
- Experience of qualitative research methods and analysis
- Knowledge and experience in experimental research design and quantitative data analysis
- Experience of working collaboratively with individuals from marginalised and seldom heard populations
- Experience of working within community health systems/services and/or using health service data
- Ability to work both independently and cooperatively as part of a team

Desirable

- MSc/MRes in Sport and Exercise Science, Psychology, Data Analytics or Health related disciplines
- Registered health professional (ideally an Occupational Therapist)
- High levels of resourcefulness and attention to detail
- Experience of communicating and disseminating research to academic and non-academic audiences.

How to apply

Application closing date: **12 noon on Friday 22nd September 2023**. You can apply for this postgraduate research opportunity [online](#). Applications MUST include the following documents to be uploaded:

- Research proposal of no more than 600 words, outlining suggested research focus(es), approach(es) and/or studies that applicants would be interested to include within this PhD.
- CV including research experience, skills, and publications (if any).
- Covering letter outlining how you meet the criteria for the studentship.
- Transcripts of any undergraduate or masters' programmes.