

Sustainable Care: connecting people and systems

ESRC Large Grant programme and International Partnership, 2017-2021

Five exceptional PhD study opportunities PhD No. 2

Study topic: ***Projecting the implications of changing immigration policies on the sustainability of home care in the UK***

Dates: ***October 2017 - September 2020***

Awarding institution: ***King's College London***

Funding: ***Sustainable Care PhD studentship, available for three years of study***

The successful applicant will be awarded a 3-year studentship (subject to satisfactory performance at regular review points) covering doctoral fees and an annual stipend to support living costs¹.

Supervisor(s): Prof. Shereen Hussein, The King's Policy Institute
<http://www.kcl.ac.uk/sspp/policy-institute/scwru/people/hussein/index.aspx>
Prof. Steven Gilmour, Department of Mathematics
<http://www.kcl.ac.uk/nms/depts/mathematics/people/atoz/Gilmours.aspx>

Linked Work package: ***Migrant care workers in the UK: an analysis of sustainability of care at home [WPA4]***

Description of the PhD study: This PhD is in Applied Statistics and will focus on the UK care sector, which has long relied on immigration to fill labour shortages. Britain's decision to leave the EU in 2019, and possible reductions in care labour from EU and other countries, pose pressing questions about the sector's capacity to meet demand. Other changes may also affect recruitment. This PhD is linked to WPB4, which aims to identify the changes required in the support and organisation of home care in light of these developments. The full WP, led by Prof Shereen Hussein, will also include comparative international analysis of other countries where migrant care labour features significantly in how home care is delivered. Its aims include the identification of learning relevant to future home care policy and practice.

Indicative research questions:

- How are UK policy changes in 2018-20 affecting the roles, recruitment and status of migrant home care workers? Which groups are most affected, how and why? Are there differences across the 4 UK nations?
- What are the implications of these changes for sustainability and wellbeing for care users, carers, home care employers, care workers (migrant/non-migrant) and care commissioners?

Indicative research methods

- Probabilistic forecasting and stochastic modelling, to develop forecast models for migration flows in relation to labour market activities in the British homecare sector, based on different scenarios, using existing and new quantitative and qualitative data.
- Elicited expert opinions using a 2-rounds Delphi survey.

Essential Applicant Requirements:

- Masters qualification or equivalent in an applied quantitative discipline (e.g. Applied Statistics, Quantitative Sociology, Demography or a related field).
- Familiarity with mixed-methods research design and the use and linkage of large datasets.
- Ability to work independently, supported by a supervisory team.
- Ability to work in regular dialogue with the wider ESRC Sustainable Care team and as part of the linked WPA4 team (see above; see also 'Expectations of all linked PhD students').
- Strong written and oral communication skills.
- Technical skills relevant to quantitative research and capacity to develop additional programming skills.
- Fluency in English language.

¹ ¹ The studentship will cover tuition fees at the UK/EU rate (worth approx. £4,170 pa) and will also provide a tax-free stipend at the standard UK Research Council rate (for 2017/18, £16,553), each for 3 years. Additional funds will be provided for travel and equipment, and students will have access to unique opportunities within the ESRC Sustainable Care programme. NOTE: **International students from outside the EU are eligible to apply, but must have the means to pay the difference between the applicable UK/EU and overseas tuition fee rates.**