

**Department of Clinical, Educational and Health Psychology, University College  
London**

**National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) School for Public Health Research PhD  
Studentship**

Applications are invited for a PhD studentship as part of the NIHR School for Public Health Research (SPHR) to be based within the Health Psychology Research Group, Department of Clinical, Educational and Health Psychology at University College London (UCL).

The studentship will focus on the development and evaluation of a theory-based smartphone application to reduce excessive alcohol consumption (outline proposal attached). It will be supervised by Professor Susan Michie and Professor Robert West, Dept of Epidemiology and Public Health, UCL

Funding is available for 3 years to cover PhD registration fees (UK/EU), a stipend (at the rate of £16,150 per annum), a Research Training Support Grants of £2000, and the research and development costs.

Start date: 1<sup>st</sup> October 2013

Deadline for applications: 10 July 2013

Interviews: 30 July 2013

For further information contact: Professor Susan Michie [s.michie@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:s.michie@ucl.ac.uk) or Professor Robert West ([robert.west@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:robert.west@ucl.ac.uk)).

**Health Psychology Research Group, University College London**

UCL's Health Psychology Research Group ([www.ucl.ac.uk/health-psychology/research-group](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/health-psychology/research-group)) is led by Prof Susan Michie. Its focus is on designing and evaluating interventions to change behaviour, drawing on psychological evidence and theory. It has a strong multi-disciplinary and translational emphasis. It is linked with the British Psychological Society's Centre for Outcomes Research and Effectiveness and sits within the Department of Clinical, Educational and Health Psychology which has a large research programme as well as postgraduate and professional training programmes. Health Psychology at UCL has close connections with the Faculty of Population Health Sciences. There is excellent support for staff and students, with a variety of seminars, training and conference opportunities.

**NIHR School for Public Health Research (SPHR)**

UCL is one of eight academic partners with excellence in applied public health research that make up the NIHR SPHR. Launched in April 2012, SPHR will receive funding of £20 million over five years to support the English public health system to develop into the future by:

- narrowing the gap between the users and suppliers of research
- increasing the evidence base for effective public health practice
- undertaking applied translational research
- considering local public health needs and evaluating innovative local practices with potential for wider population benefit.

The School's emphasis is on identifying interventions and approaches that work practically, can be applied across the country and better meet the needs of policy makers, practitioners and the public.

**Supervision:** UCL offers excellent supervision and the student will have access to a wide range of academic activities across psychology and population health sciences. It is expected that the student would also benefit from the networks offered by the wider SPHR collaboration. The second supervisor, Professor Robert West, is Director of UCL's Tobacco Research Group, Editor of *Addiction*. His research in digital behaviour change interventions includes the development and evaluation of a smartphone app for smoking cessation.

**Publication and wider dissemination:** It is expected that the results of the PhD research will be publishable in good quality, peer-reviewed academic journals and communicated at conferences. In addition, the research would be expected to generate outputs that are tailored to public health practitioner and policy making audiences.

### **Eligibility & funding**

This studentship is open to those wishing to undertake a Postgraduate Research degree who have already completed appropriate research training (usually through obtaining a good Master's degree in a relevant subject).

The studentship covers the full cost of the tuition fees (for European Union students) and provides an annual, tax-free maintenance stipend of £16,150. Overseas applicants are eligible to apply, but the cost of additional fees will need to be met by the successful candidate. Further funds, up to a maximum of £15,000, are available to cover research costs. The recipient will also receive a Research Training Support Grant of £2,000 to cover additional expenses related to their research, such as travel, conferences, books and other miscellaneous items.

### **Application process**

Candidates should complete the University's online application form, including submission of a detailed research proposal (to be based on the outline proposal)

<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/graduate-study/application>

The selection process will also involve a face-to-face interview and may involve some skills assessment.