

# PhD Opportunity

## Home Automation and Dementia Care

**Supervisory team**

Dr Chris Bowers, Dr Shirley Evans

**Director of Studies**

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**Supervisors**

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**Research Groups:**

[Digital Innovation Research Group](#)  
[Association for Dementia Studies](#)

**The PhD Opportunity**

Home Automation technologies have evolved significantly in recent years to incorporate all aspects of modern living from climate control, lighting, security, safety monitoring, entertainment and energy conservation.

Interaction with these systems has also developed to incorporate a wide range of modalities including artificially intelligent voice assistants, touch control interface, cameras, sensors and dashboards available via mobile devices and TV displays.

This research will focus on understanding how such technologies could help to promote ageing-in-place. It may consider aspects such as:

- Automation and assistance of everyday tasks.
- Cognitive support to address confusion and assist in memory recall, thinking and planning.
- Adapting the environment to account for behavioural and mood changes.

This PhD would utilise a variety of technologies to explore practical implementations of technologies in the home setting and should account for all relevant stake holders including the care receiver, care givers, service providers, family and friends.

**Application Process**

To begin the application process please go to

<https://www.worc.ac.uk/research/research-degrees/applying-for-a-phd/>.

### **The Interview**

All successful applicants will be offered an interview with the proposed Supervisory Team. You will be contacted by a member of the Doctoral School Team to find a suitable date. Interviews can be conducted in person or over Microsoft Teams.

### **Funding your PhD**

For information about Doctoral Loans please visit: <https://www.worc.ac.uk/study/fees-and-finance/doctoral-loans.aspx>

During your PhD you can access the Research Conference Support Scheme to support the costs of presenting your research at an external conference.

### **Research at the University of Worcester**

Research is central to the University's mission to make a difference in everything that we do. We are committed to delivering excellent research which extends the boundaries of human knowledge but which also improves people's lives by enabling better health outcomes, improving food security, developing environmentally sustainable solutions for crop production and socially sustainable solutions to our ageing population, enhancing public knowledge and understanding of the past and present.

The University hence focuses its research around five high-level challenges facing society, locally, nationally and globally:

- [Human Health and Wellbeing](#)
- [Sustainable Futures](#)
- [Digital Innovation](#)
- [Culture, Identity and Social Exclusion](#)
- [Professional Education](#)

The success of our research is reflected in our continuous improvement in external research assessment processes. In the most recent Research Excellence Framework, REF 2021, the University saw a near 50% increase in the scale of its research and 12% increase in quality, building on its performance in REF 2014 when it was the UK's most improved university in terms of Research Power, a combination of scale and quality.

### **Research Degrees at Worcester**

Our research students are central to our overall mission for research. They are working at the cutting edge of their disciplines and driving forward the quality of our research whilst enriching our research culture. We are looking to increase our research student numbers as a strategic imperative.

Our commitment to our students is reflected in the results of the Postgraduate Research Experience Survey 2025 in which we ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> for overall research student satisfaction nationally. Key to our success in this area is the Doctoral School, a focal point for all our research students.

It provides:

- day-to-day support for our students, both administrative and practical, through our dedicated team
- a Research Student Study Space with both PCs and laptop docking station
- a comprehensive Researcher Development Programme for students and their supervisors
- a programme of student-led conferences and seminars

### **Widening Participation**

As part of its mission statement the University is committed to widening participation for its higher degrees. Although most candidates will have an undergraduate and/or a Masters degree, the University is happy to accept applications from candidates with relevant professional qualifications and work related experience.

**For further information** or an informal discussion on this project, please contact Dr Chris Bowers (Director of Studies) via email at [c.bowers@worc.ac.uk](mailto:c.bowers@worc.ac.uk)

