



PhD Studentship

Closing date: 12th October 2022

Interview date: 1st November 2022, at University of Worcester

Supervisory team

Director of Studies:

[Dr Paul Snelling](#) Three County School of Nursing and Midwifery, University of Worcester. Lead, [Philosophy and Ethics of Professional Practice Research Group](#).

Supervisors:

[Professor Lisa Jones](#) Professor of Psychological Medicine, Lead of [Mood Disorders Research Group](#), University of Worcester

[Dr Rosie Erol](#) Research Fellow, Lead [Violence and Trauma Prevention Research Group](#) University of Worcester

Dr Richard Lewis, Chief Constable, Dyfed-Powys Police.

In collaboration with The National Police Chiefs Council.

The NPCC brings police forces in the UK together to help policing coordinate operations, reform, improve and provide value for money. Details can be found at <https://www.npcc.police.uk/>



The Project

Ethical aspects of police response to people experiencing mental illness.

Context

There is a good deal of research into police use of powers of detention under mental health legislation, but the interaction between police and those experiencing mental illness whose behaviour does not require detention has not been studied. As the police force continues to professionalise, ethical and accountable decision making by practitioners is required, based on a Code of Ethics. The Code requires that police staff 'must treat all people fairly and with respect' ([College of Policing 2014](#), p.6), and an example given of meeting this standard is when police staff 'show compassion and empathy, as appropriate, to people you come into contact with.'

Aims and Objectives

The aim of the studentship is to conduct research into the way in which ethical considerations influence decision making of police officers where they interact with members of the public who are exhibiting behaviour attributable to mental illness but falling short of the threshold needed for detainment under section 136 of the Mental Health Act. The study will examine ethical aspects of these encounters from the perspectives of both police officers and members of the public who are experiencing mental illness. The proposed research questions are:

1. How do police officers consider ethical issues in their interactions with members of the public who are manifesting behaviours associated with mental illness but who do not require detention to a Place of Safety under s136 of the Mental Health Act?
2. How do members of the public who have manifested behaviours associated with mental illness that have brought them into contact with police officers, perceive the ethical character and conduct of police officers?

Indicative methodology

Following a literature review the detailed methods will be decided by the successful applicant. However, to maximise impact it is proposed that the research will likely utilise a mixed method approach which will examine the ethical aspects of policing people experiencing mental illness from the perspectives of police practitioners and those who are the subject of their decision making.

Access to extensive databases through the National Police Ethics Committee and the UK-wide Bipolar Disorder Research Network (<http://bdrn.org/>) based at the University of Worcester will allow large sample online questionnaires to gather data about incidences and nature of police interactions from both the perspective of police officers and people diagnosed with bipolar disorder. Following these surveys, a small sample of both groups of people will be interviewed so that detailed exploration of the ethical considerations can be achieved. Precise details of both the survey and the qualitative method will be guided by the literature review and responses from the large scale surveys.

The full proposal can be accessed [here](#)



Details of the studentship

The studentship is offered for a 4-year period on a full-time basis. The studentship is campus based, but some activity can be online, and we welcome applications from those living away from Worcester. During the period of your studentship, you will receive the following:

- a tax-free bursary of £15,609 for 3 years
- a fee-waiver for 4 years (expectation that full time students complete in 3 years. If student enters year 4, bursary stops but fees waived)
- a budget to support your direct project costs including dissemination costs
- a laptop and other IT equipment and software as appropriate to the project
- use of the Research School facilities

You will be expected to play an active role in the life of both the Research School and of your academic School and research groups. You will be given opportunities to gain experience in learning and teaching within the School under the guidance of your Director of Studies.

Application Process

To begin the application process for this studentship please go to <http://www.worcester.ac.uk/researchstudentships> and click 'apply now' next to the project you wish to apply for. It is expected that applicants will have the following qualifications:

- A First or Upper Second Honours Degree in a relevant subject

It is also expected that applicants will be able to demonstrate the following:

- A sound understanding of and interest in both the project and the wider subject area
- Experience of relevant research methods and skills
- Ability to contribute to the research design of the project
- Proficiency in oral and written English
- Proficiency in IT relevant to the project
- Ability to organise and meet deadlines
- Good interpersonal skills
- Ability to work independently
- Ability to work as part of a team
- The ability to travel to Worcester for meetings.

The successful candidate will require both enhanced DBS clearance and Police vetting.



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The Interview

The interview will provisionally be held on the morning of 1st November 2022 at the University of Worcester. Shortlisted candidates will be given at least 7 day's notice of interview. In advance of interview, shortlisted candidates will be asked to submit a 500 word critical review of a paper or report which will be provided in advance. Alongside the interview, shortlisted candidates will also be asked to give a 10 minute presentation on a related topic.



Research at the University of Worcester

Research at the University of Worcester has grown significantly over the last 10 years. The outcomes of the Research Excellence Framework 2014 (REF 2014) showed that Worcester was the most improved University in the UK based on Research Fortnight's "Research Power" measure. The University's continued progress was shown in the outcomes of REF 2021 which demonstrated that both the scale and quality of our research has further increased, with over 40% of our research recognised as world-leading or internationally excellent.

The University has been successful in winning funding from a wide range of major funders: Research Councils such as AHRC, BBSRC, ESRC and NERC; major charities such as the Leverhulme Trust, the Alzheimer's Society and the British Academy; health-research funders such as the NIHR, the Department of Health and local NHS Trusts; European funding through Horizon 2020 and Erasmus+; and funding from local, national and global businesses.

The University is focused on research which addresses real world challenges and provides solutions to these challenges:

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

The University continues to provide a robust infrastructure for research. It has a well-established Research School which houses its growing research student body and which provides a comprehensive programme of researcher development for staff and students. It has a well-established Research Office, responsible for research funding, governance and strategy. The University is committed to further developing its research profile, through a strategic approach to



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its support for and investment in research. Its fully-funded studentships are part of this investment.

Research School

The Research School is 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

This project is a collaboration between the School of Psychology, School of Allied Health & Community and the Three Counties School of Nursing and Midwifery

School of Psychology

Furthering understanding of all areas of psychology is a key objective of the School and we conduct research that helps us to shape and understand our lives. This research underpins our teaching at undergraduate and postgraduate level as well as providing opportunities for staff to undertake consultancy.

The University's transformational research projects seek to address some of the major issues both within our professions, local services, our community and beyond it. By pulling together academics working across Schools and disciplines to tackle important, social, scientific and environmental challenges, these projects are making an impact on people's lives and helping to expand our base of world-leading research.

Our research-excellence underpins the content and delivery of all our teaching programmes – undergraduate and postgraduate. We are committed to enabling all of our students to profit from a culture of learning aligned with our research and knowledge-transfer ethos, which is based upon critical enquiry, debate and self-motivation.

Much of our research is brought together in our interdisciplinary Research Group focused on [Interpersonal Relationships and Wellbeing](#). The Group explores how individual, social and environmental factors influence relationships and wellbeing within different contexts, such as in workplaces, schools and online spaces. We are interested in understanding how interpersonal relationships contribute to mental health (construed as both trauma/mental ill-health, and as wellbeing) and how they shape individual and team behaviour in consumer and organizational settings. In doing so, we explore both the 'dark' and 'light' side of relationships and human behaviour more broadly.

Three Counties School of Nursing and Midwifery

Research is central to the professions of nursing and midwifery. At the Three Counties School of Nursing and Midwifery, we embed research and other evidence into everything we do: in our teaching and learning, our practice, our collaborations with a wide range of partners, and in our contributions to nursing and midwifery research and scholarship.

We provide research training for a wide range of practice partners and contribute to their activity with projects including service evaluations.



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School of Allied Health and Community

Allied Health and Community at Worcester encompasses subject areas including Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Paramedic Science, Advancing Clinical Practice, Health and Social Care, Mental Health, Nutritional Therapy, Public Health, Palliative Care, Physician Associate training, Social Work and Youth and Community Studies.

We pride ourselves on our teaching excellence, applied research and practice development. We work closely with our local community and with partners across a wide range of sectors to enhance the student experience and to provide students with an invaluable insight into professional practice.

Furthering understanding of all areas of health and society is a key objective of the School and we conduct research of international importance that helps to shape our lives. The School hosts the internationally renowned research centre, the [Association for Dementia Studies](#).

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Mood Disorders Research Group

The Mood Disorders Research Group is based in the School of Allied Health & Community. Research is focused on investigations of the causes and triggers of bipolar disorder and other related affective and psychotic illnesses, such as schizoaffective disorder and postpartum psychosis. The Group leads the UK Bipolar Disorder Research Network (www.bdrn.org) in collaboration with colleagues at Cardiff University. You will join other PhD students working within the Group and BDRN and be invited to participate in all aspects of collaborative academic life. Find out more here: <https://www.worcester.ac.uk/about/academic-schools/school-of-allied-health-and-community/allied-health-research/mood-disorders-research-group/>

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 Paul Snelling (Director of Studies) via email at p.snelling@worc.ac.uk

Applications can be made at: <http://www.worcester.ac.uk/researchstudentships>