

SELF FUNDED PHD OPPORTUNITY

Bystander Intervention

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The issues of sexual harassment, sexual violence and domestic abuse on University campuses have received increasing recognition over the last ten years thanks to campaigns by the National Union of Students (NUS, 2010, Cambridge, 2014). In 2014, Public Health England commissioned a systematic review to assess the international evidence regarding 'what works' in preventing these problems in a University context. The review found that 'Bystander Intervention' programmes, where students are empowered to become 'active' bystanders and challenge the social norms that facilitate and condone problematic behaviour, are the most effective strategy for tackling this issue (Public Health England, 2016, Fenton & Mott, 2017). In the UK, the first Bystander Intervention programme was designed by the University of the West of England – the Intervention Initiative. Universities UK recommended this programme as an effective way of preventing sexual harassment, sexual violence and domestic abuse (Universities UK, 2016). In the US, there has been extensive research into the factors that affect whether people choose to intervene in problematic situations, but this research has yet to be undertaken in the UK (Public Health England, 2016). The University of Worcester has been successfully delivering a tailored bystander intervention programme to undergraduate psychology students since 2016, and this has been evaluated extremely positively by the 200+ students who have undertaken the programme. Given the infancy of bystander intervention in the UK, and the lack of research into factors affecting intervention in the UK context, we are seeking an exceptional candidate to undertake an exploration and evaluation of the role of bystander intervention in tackling sexual violence and domestic abuse on university campuses within the UK.