

Research

**PLYMOUTH
UNIVERSITY
PENINSULA**
SCHOOLS OF MEDICINE & DENTISTRY



PhD Studentship (full-time 3 years, part time possible)

Preliminary investigation of the effectiveness of an intervention to prevent oral disease in a highly vulnerable child population: PUPSMD-15-16-009 R2

Start date: 1st October 2016

Director of Studies: Elizabeth Kay
2nd Supervisor: Cath Quinn
3rd Supervisor: Robert Witton

The Plymouth University Peninsula Schools of Medicine & Dentistry are seeking to attract PhD candidates of outstanding ability to join their exciting and rapidly expanding programme of internationally-rated research. The Plymouth University Peninsula Schools of Medicine & Dentistry are committed to research excellence.

Applications are invited from suitably qualified graduates 2:1 or above, preferably dental hygienists or therapists. International students must also have an IELTS score of 7.0 or above (with no less than 6.5 in any element).

Dental caries in children is a preventable disease which can have profound negative impacts and can cause such pain that hospitalisation and surgery, in the form of extractions, are required. Caries has a disproportionately negative effect on the most deprived sectors of the population. This PhD offers the opportunity to be involved in testing the feasibility, acceptability and clinical effectiveness of an oral health educator led intervention. The studentship will involve visiting the families of infants born to teenage mothers in areas of deprivation and offering support in ensuring the oral health of the child. The oral health of the infants at the age of two will be compared with that in a non-intervention group to assess the effectiveness of the intervention on promoting oral health. Qualitative research with participant families will assess the acceptability and perceived effectiveness of the programme. This study will test the implementation of an intervention which was developed in an MRC study. If shown to be successful national roll-out is a possibility, offering further opportunities for effectiveness research.

For further information regarding the project, please contact Professor Elizabeth Kay: elizabeth.kay@plymouth.ac.uk. However, applications must be made in accordance with the details shown below.

Funding Notes:

The stipend will be £14,296 (based on full time 16/17 rate). Tuition fees will be paid at the home/EU rate. Candidates who are not eligible for Home/EU fees will be liable for the difference between 'home student fees' and 'international student fees'. For the 16/17 academic year the difference in fee £23,240. If you are selected you will be required to provide financial assurances.

To Apply:

Follow the link <https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/study/postgraduate> and click 'Apply' to access the application form. Please mark the application for the attention of Bernice Wilmshurst ref: PUPSMD-15-16-009 R2. **Please Note:** you do not need to submit a project proposal with your application.

Further information on the application process is available at:

<https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/student-life/your-studies/the-graduate-school/applicants-and-enquirers>

If you have any questions on the admissions process contact Bernice Wilmshurst pupsm-d-researchdegreesadmissions@plymouth.ac.uk

The closing date for applications is 12 noon on 25th August 2016. Shortlisted candidates will be invited for interview. We regret that we may not be able to respond to all applications, if you have not received an offer of a place by 1st October 2016 please consider your application unsuccessful.