

Research Project/Studentship Description

Studentship Ref Number: RS/24/04	Closing Date: 3 July 2024
School	Psychology and Humanities
Centre	Research Centre for Translational Biosciences and Behaviour
Proposed Director of Studies	Professor Jane L. Ireland
Contact Details	JLIreland1@uclan.ac.uk
Programme	PhD (via MPhil)
Duration of Studentship	Up to 3.5 years
Hours (Full or Part Time)	Full Time
Tuition Fees	UK Fees covered (International students to make up the difference between UK and International fees)
Maintenance Grant	£19237 per annum
Any Entry Requirements (e.g. 2:1 classification/restricted to UK residences only)	Candidates should have a UK BSc Honours degree at 2:1 level or above in Psychology (or equivalent qualification) and have completed/near completion of a Masters level qualification in a relevant area (e.g., forensic psychology, mental health and/or research). EU and International applicants require an English Language level of UKVI IELTS 6.5 with no sub-score less than 6.0 (or acceptable UCLan equivalent qualification).
Any Special Requirements (e.g. driving licence)	None
Project Title	
Potential comorbidity and diagnostic overlap between Complex Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Borderline Personality Disorder and Autism Spectrum Disorder: Considering trauma and damaging behaviours	
Project Description	
<p>The project captures the cross-over between Complex PTSD (C-PTSD), Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Borderline Personality Disorder (BPD). Recent research highlights shared diagnostic components, shared behaviours and experiences, including the experience of trauma and the expression of damaging behaviours (e.g., self-injury, aggression). Recognising the overlap between these conditions is crucial. Surprisingly, despite these connections these diagnoses are not typically considered together in treatment pathways. Failing to acknowledge similarities ultimately limits treatment provision since clients can be placed into treatment pathways unique to each diagnosis without sufficient justification.</p> <p>Despite apparent shared elements across these conditions, no research has examined the extent to which diagnostic features collectively manifest across samples. To address this, the research will consider general population and clinical samples (patients, clinicians), including various elements ranging from a systematic review of the literature, expert review, quantitative analysis of a large general population dataset and a psychiatric sample.</p> <p>To carry out this important work, the University of Central Lancashire invites applications to take up a full PhD studentship funded by the ESRC in partnership with Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust. The successful candidate will be physically based at Ashworth Hospital (a high-secure NHS forensic mental health inpatient unit near Liverpool), as well as being part of a stimulating university environment at UCLan. The setting will provide unsurpassed clinical and academic support and expertise, a robust research environment and thriving research student community, which together will cultivate research talent and maximise opportunities for professional development.</p> <p>The project benefits from the full support of Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust and the student will operate under the terms of the standard NHS honorary contract with Mersey Care that affords access to Ashworth Hospital. The student will also benefit from a broad range of professional training in forensic mental health (e.g., risk assessment, clinical interviewing) that may be relevant to the project or their future professional aspirations.</p>	

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Interviews will be held on the 17 July 2024.

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Contact:	Professor Jane L. Ireland (JLIreland1@uclan.ac.uk)	

Attributes	Essential	Desirable	Measured By
Education/ Qualifications	<p>UK BSc Honours degree at 2:1 level or above in Psychology (or equivalent qualification).</p> <p>Completed/near completion of a Masters level qualification in a relevant area (e.g., forensic psychology, mental health and/or research).</p> <p>EU and International applicants will need to hold an English Language qualification at IELTS 6.5 (no sub-score below 6.0) or equivalent qualification.</p>	<p>Merit or above in a relevant Masters degree (or equivalent international qualification)</p>	<p>Application</p>
Experience	<p>Knowledge and skill in quantitative research methods.</p> <p>Knowledge and interest in forensic psychological fields of research, including application to forensic practice and/or mental health.</p>	<p>Experience of working within an applied and/or forensic setting (e.g. prison, secure hospital, probation, police).</p> <p>Experience of conducting applied research within an applied and/or forensic setting.</p>	<p>Application/ Interview</p>
Skills/Abilities	<p>High level of competence in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • designing/executing quantitative research projects • numeracy, data handling, SPSS • scientific writing and oral communication • independent working and team working • self-organisation, ability to meet deadlines 		<p>Interview</p>