



## **Physical and Mental Health in families with co-residing adult relatives with a learning disability (3-year FT PhD project)**

### **Fully Funded PhD Scholarship**

A large number of adults with a learning disability (LD) live at home with their families. In Wales, it is estimated that about half of all adults with a LD live at home. Compared to adults in residential accommodation, we know relatively little about the circumstances and quality of life of these people, and less about the support needs of their families. The PhD project will aim to describe the mental and physical health needs of family carers, and capture several aspects of the quality of life of adults with a LD who live at home. A combination of research methods will be involved in the project with both primary data collection and secondary data analyses planned.

The project is a collaboration between the School of Psychology, Cartrefi Cymru and Mencap Cymru. The successful applicant will be registered as a student with the School of Psychology, Bangor University. The academic supervisors are Dr Vaso Totsika and Prof. Richard Hastings, who are members of a large and dynamic research group (20+ members) carrying out research in the field of developmental disabilities within the School of Psychology. The company supervisors are Mr Adrian Roper (CEO of Cartrefi Cymru) and Mr Wayne Crocker (Director of Mencap Cymru).

The studentship includes a maintenance grant of £14k per annum, with full-time fees paid and additional allowances. A requirement of the studentship is a minimum 30-day non-remunerated work placement per annum. More information on the studentship and application process can be found at [www.higherskillswales.co.uk/kess](http://www.higherskillswales.co.uk/kess)

As a minimum, applicants are expected to have (or be about to obtain) an upper second class honours (or equivalent) in psychology, or a closely related discipline of relevance to the PhD topic. A postgraduate qualification, equivalent postgraduate research experience, and/or experience of analysing large datasets are highly desirable. If you have any questions about the project, please contact Dr Vaso Totsika ([v.totsika@bangor.ac.uk](mailto:v.totsika@bangor.ac.uk), tel 01248 388706) for an informal discussion.



## How to apply

The first step in the application process will be to complete and submit an eligibility form which can be downloaded [here](#). This form must be completed, signed and submitted to Katie Minton, Senior Clerical Officer, KESS, Room E:109, The management Centre, College Road, Bangor, LL57 2DG. You will receive a response regarding your eligibility within 5 working days of receipt of your form.

The closing date for formal applications will be **26<sup>th</sup> May 2011** and short-listed applicants will be required to attend an interview on **8<sup>th</sup> June 2011**, with an anticipated start date of no later than October 2011.

## Eligibility

To be eligible to participate in the KESS programme, prospective students must be resident in the Convergence Area (West Wales and the Valleys) on application, and be able to work in the Convergence Area upon completion of the scholarship. The eligibility form is the first step in the application process and any applications which do not meet the above criteria will not be processed further.

Knowledge Economy Skills Scholarships (KESS) is a pan-Wales higher level skills initiative led by Bangor University on behalf of the HE sector in Wales. It is part funded by the Welsh Assembly Government's European Social Fund (ESF) convergence programme for West Wales and the Valleys.

