

## University of Bolton - PhD Studentship in Psychology

### Ainsworth Scheme

### CLOSING DATE

**5PM 20 JUNE 2019**



Teaching Intensive Research Informed

Applications are invited for a 3-year fully funded PhD studentship in the **Psychology of Mental Health**. Beginning October 2019, the student will be based in Psychology and supervised by members of the Psychology research group.

The PhD will primarily focus on the psychological aspects of students' wellbeing and mental health, with particular attention to students with a higher risk of being affected by mental health issues.

You will join a growing group of academic group engaged in projects developing and assessing mental health interventions in educational contexts. As part of this group, you will be expected to contribute to meetings, present findings at academic conferences, and publish findings in academic journals. You will also have the opportunity to present and promote your findings to key stakeholders and you will be encouraged to engage with relevant government agencies and industry stakeholders, helping them understand your research and its relevance to their practice and policy.

While the precise research programme will be discussed and negotiated with the successful applicant, the following issues are likely to form part of the PhD work:

- To conduct a survey of the entire student body of the University, to assess firstly the degree of mental wellbeing and secondly the prevalence of anxiety and depression.
- To carry out targeted psychological interventions, under supervision, to tackle mental health issues in "at risk" groups, eg. Mature students, the youngest students, students with a background in "looked after care." And/or other 'groups at higher risk.
- To develop some new resources for student mental wellbeing, in printed copy and in digital form.
- To advise the University of how best to promote student mental health from a student perspective.
- To promote the findings and resources to external stakeholders in order to maximise the 'impact' of this research.

This studentship provides annual funding to cover UK/EU tuition fees and a maintenance grant will be paid in line with national research council rates. You will be expected to teach for up to six hours per week during term time.

You should be motivated, ambitious, and able to demonstrate an interest in the advertised PhD area. You should hold, or expect to gain, at least an Upper 2.1 honours degree, or its equivalent, in a relevant discipline.

To apply, please email a CV and a 300-word statement outlining why you are interested in this PhD, to Professor Jerome Carson, [J.Carson@bolton.ac.uk] using the Subject line 'Psychology PhD application.' After the deadline, applications will be reviewed and shortlisted candidates will be invited for interview, before award decisions are made. If you wish to discuss the studentship informally or if you have any questions about the position, please contact Professor Carson. This award is part of the Ainsworth scheme.

#### Preferred Qualifications.

- Upper second or first class honours degree in Psychology.

#### Preferred Skills/Knowledge.

- Knowledge of standardised screening assessments, eg. GAD-7, PHQ-9, Warwick Edinburgh Scale.
- Competent in use of SPSS, data entry and data analysis.
- Ability to conduct qualitative interviews and use NVivo.
- Very good verbal and written communication skills.
- Ability to relate well to both academic staff and students.

#### Preferred Experience.

- Experience of working with students or young people with mental health issues.