

# NIHR Applied Mental Health PhD Studentships 2025-26

The Institute of Public Health and Wellbeing at the University of Essex is pleased to offer 3 PhD Studentships to support work on a [NIHR funded programme](#). This is a joint project with partners at Kings College London and University of Cambridge of applied mental health research to address key mental health challenges in Essex, Southend and Thurrock (Greater Essex).

The 3 PhD studentships will be based within our programme research team and will undertake projects associated with this wider programme of research.

Supervisors will be allocated from among the project team (including staff from Essex, Kings and Cambridge) based on topic and method. The current project team members are below and additional team members will join over the coming months:

*Prof Susan McPherson, Prof Meena Kumari, Dr Emily Murray, Dr Cara Booker, Prof Roisin Ryan-Flood, Dr Antonella Trotta, Prof Craig Morgan, Prof Tamsin Ford.*

PhD students will be based with the team at the [Institute for Public Health and Wellbeing](#) but may also have the opportunity to make visits to our partners at Kings and Cambridge.

The successful applicants will receive a full PhD Studentship, including full Home UK tuition fee discount for three years of study, a stipend payment towards your living costs.

Full funding Studentship available is as outlined below.

Type of award	Funding available
<b>Full-funding award</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Home UK tuition fee waiver.</li><li>■ Living costs stipend at the UK Research and Innovation recommended level per year. For 2025-26 this rate is £20,780.</li></ul>

# Terms and conditions

## Eligibility

- Receipt of the Studentship is subject to successfully applying for one of the following courses:  
  
PhD Health Studies  
  
PhD Public health  
  
PhD Applied Psychology
- You will need to register as a postgraduate student at the University of Essex for the 2025-26 academic year on one of the above PhD courses commencing in October 2025 or mutually agreed shortly thereafter, and meet all conditions of our offer.
- These Studentships are restricted to students who are Home (UK) fee payers and are entirely self-funded\*.
- Students must have achieved an honours degree (1<sup>st</sup> class or 2:1, or equivalent). A Masters in a relevant subject is desirable (but not essential) and substantive previous professional experience in the relevant area can be counted towards this requirement.
- If English is not your first language, you will also need to meet the English language entry requirements for the PhD you have applied for.
- This Studentship is available for three years of study only.
- These Studentships are restricted to students who would otherwise be entirely self-funded.
- The award cannot be held in conjunction with any other University of Essex Studentships.
- Successful applicants should be available for promotional activities.

\*Students receiving a repayable loan to fund their studies will be considered as self-funded.

## Students who are not eligible

The following students are NOT eligible for this Studentship regardless of meeting the above criteria:

- Students who are assessed as overseas fee payers.

- Students awarded the Studentship who defer entry to following academic years will be ineligible to receive the award. They will need to re-apply to be considered in line with the terms and conditions that apply to available Studentships in the new proposed year of entry.
- Students who are fully or partly sponsored by their government or other external agency and are not required to make any repayments (this does not include VISA sponsorship)
- Students on a 4-year integrated PhD course.

## How to apply

You should apply separately for the Studentship and the PhD Course.

**To apply for the studentship**, please email the following to Dr Victoria Nolan, [vnolan@essex.ac.uk](mailto:vnolan@essex.ac.uk) by the application deadline of 4:00pm GMT on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June and include the following documents:

- Covering letter
- Research Proposal (maximum 1000 words)
  - CV
  - Academic transcript
  - A note of your PG / applicant number (this will be provided to you when you apply for your course)

We expect to invite shortlisted candidates for an interview during the week commencing 14th July 2025.

**To apply for the PhD course**, please apply through our standard online application process, which is quick and straightforward, and the following pages give you all the details: [PhD application information | University of Essex](#)

You should note in your application that you are also applying for this studentship, and that a supervisor will be allocated to successful awardees.

You can learn about postgraduate research at the University of Essex more generally here:

<https://www.essex.ac.uk/postgraduate/research>.

You should apply for a place to study as soon as possible, and at the latest by 4:00pm GMT on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2025

## **Payment arrangements**

- The tuition fee waiver part of this Studentship will be made available as a waiver of the tuition fee that is payable on registration at the University.
- This Studentship is awarded for each year of study for a period of three years. The fee element will be deducted automatically, and the stipend will be paid in quarterly instalments.
- If visits to Kings College or the University of Cambridge are required, a small grant may be available for reasonable travel expenses. Students should seek approval before committing to costs.
- Awards are granted for one year in the first instance but will be renewed, subject to the award holder's satisfactory progress (as defined by the Code of Practice: Postgraduate Research Degrees), for a second and third year – up to a maximum tenure of nine terms or three years, provided the award holder is still engaged in full-time research (and excepting the circumstances stated in the section on termination).
- Where progress is satisfactory, renewal of the award is automatic. Students who wish to extend their period of study beyond the nine terms will have to meet the additional costs themselves.

## **Studentship suspension**

Students must be registered and meet the above conditions to receive payment. The Studentship will be suspended during a period of approved leave of absence (intermission) where this period covers a whole or part of an academic year and may be reinstated on your return to full-time study subject to the conditions above. On your return to study, you will be entitled to the balance of the Studentship for the stage. There will be no payment for repeat periods of study in any circumstances.

## **Holiday**

Studentship holders are entitled to a maximum of eight weeks' holiday (including bank holidays and the University closure at Christmas) per annum and pro-rata. Holidays should be agreed in advance with the supervisor and, in cases where the awardee is engaged in teaching and demonstrating, with the approval of the head of the student's department, school or centre.

## **Termination of Studentship**

The University will terminate a Studentship when progress or performance is deemed to be unsatisfactory. The Studentship will be terminated if a student ceases to be registered as a student with the University, or for good cause at the discretion of our Dean of Postgraduate Research & Education, or their nominee for this purpose.

If a Studentship is terminated prematurely for any reason, an awardee must repay to the University any monies including maintenance, travel, subsistence, fees overpaid from the date of the termination of the Studentship. If an awardee submits his/her thesis before the end of the Studentship, the Studentship will be terminated on the date of submission. If an awardee takes up full-time employment whilst in receipt of a Studentship, the Studentship will be terminated as of the first day of employment.

## **Transferability / change of course**

Due to the nature of the funding for these Studentships, change of course may not always be possible. The student must first seek approval from their supervisor before requesting a change of course. Approval will only be granted if the proposed course is relevant to and continues to support the project.

## **Data Privacy Statement**

The University of Essex takes confidentiality very seriously, your application form will only be seen by members of staff involved in processing your application. Information is kept in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) as it applies in the UK, tailored by the Data Protection Act 2018. Personal data will be used solely for statistical purposes and electronic record keeping and may be made available to authorised University staff to allow statistical information to be analysed.

This data will not be passed to any other third party without your consent, except when the University is required to do so by law. Any formal enquiries concerning the use of data noted here should be addressed to the Head of Student Services.

## **Resolution of disputes**

Acceptance of this award constitutes acceptance of these terms and conditions. Registered students should contact the [Funding Team](#) in the first instance for guidance regarding this award. In cases not covered by the above terms and conditions, or where a student claims exceptional circumstances, or disputes a decision not to make payments due under an award, final appeals on decisions regarding

eligibility must be made via the [Student Complaints process](#). The Academic Registrar or their nominee will review the case and his/her decision will be final.

*These terms and conditions apply to the academic year 2025-26. The University of Essex reserves the right to update these terms and conditions as necessary.*