



## **MRC-NIHR Trials Methodology Research Partnership**

### **Bangor University hosted PhD studentship**

A fully funded PhD studentship to start in early 2020 is available at the Centre for Health Economics and Medicines Evaluation in the School of Health Sciences, Bangor University. As part of the MRC-NIHR Trials Methodology Research Partnership, the 3-year studentship will cover the UK/EU tuition fee, provide a maintenance stipend in line with RCUK rates (£15,009 per annum for full time award holders) and funding for research costs. The primary supervisor will be Professor Dyfrig Hughes, with support from Professor Carolyn Young from the Walton Centre NHS Trust, and Professor Andrea Jorgensen from the University of Liverpool.

#### **The project**

A number of mechanisms exist for the NHS to fund certain new medicines for which there is limited evidence for their clinical or cost-effectiveness. Patient access to promising new cancer treatments, for instance, is increasingly via managed access arrangements that specify data collection processes to address areas of clinical uncertainty. HIV Pre-exposure Prophylaxis is currently available in England only via the Impact Trial, following a legal dispute over funding arrangements. In 2002, when NICE did not recommend certain treatments for multiple sclerosis (MS), the MS risk-sharing scheme was set up to collect data to assess their cost effectiveness.

The optimal methods of studies that follow on from HTA “coverage with evidence development” decisions are not well established. Using data already collected on over 5,000 people with MS from the Trajectories of Outcome in Neurological Conditions (TONiC) study, this project will explore different study designs that may improve the efficiency of reducing uncertainties in the clinical and cost-effectiveness of new medicines.

#### **Funding**

The studentship provides a stipend at current RCUK rates (presently £15,009 per annum) plus Home/EU tuition fees (£4,394 per annum). Full time (3 years) or part time study (up to 6 years, pro rata funding) is possible. Research costs are included.

#### **Requirements**

A good degree (minimum 2.1 or equivalent) in a health, economic or quantitative discipline is required. A Master's degree in health economics or related discipline would also be desirable. The ideal candidate would have a strong quantitative background, and demonstrate an interest in working in a multidisciplinary group.

## **Training opportunities and student support**

The student will be supported for their learning needs by their supervisors and postdoctoral staff at the Centre for Health Economics and Medicines Evaluation. Additional training will include attendance to specialist short courses. There will also be opportunities for the student to undertake taught modules at postgraduate level to provide the extra skills and knowledge needed to undertake postgraduate research, as well as attend workshops and courses provided for postgraduate research students by Bangor University's Centre for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching.

## **About the Centre for Health Economics and Medicines Evaluation**

Founded in 2001, the [Centre for Health Economics and Medicines Evaluation](#) (CHEME) is now one of the leading health economics centres in the UK. CHEME contributed to the University's highest ranked unit of assessment in the 2014 Research Excellence Framework, with 95% of outputs being world leading and internationally excellent. Research outputs were rated 3<sup>rd</sup> out of 94 institutions across the UK.

## **How to Apply**

Interested candidates are advised to discuss the project with Professor Dyfrig Hughes [d.a.hughes@bangor.ac.uk](mailto:d.a.hughes@bangor.ac.uk) Closing date for application is the 18<sup>th</sup> December 2019. Applications are via: <https://apps.bangor.ac.uk/applicant/>

## **Start date**

Early 2020