



Cardiff University
School of Psychology

Studentship Title:	The effectiveness and impact of attachment-informed interventions for adopted children
Research Area/ Project Title:	Adoption of children from state care and psychological interventions to support adoptive families.
Location:	School of Psychology
Expected Start Date:	1 st October 2018
Duration:	Studentships can be undertaken on a full-time basis over 3 years (100% WTE) or part time over 6 years (50% WTE).
Deadline for Application:	February 1 st 2018

Description of Research Opportunity:

This is an opportunity for a postgraduate research student to work at the interface between research and practice and contribute new knowledge to understanding factors that underlie effective interventions that support adoptive families.

Context: The families of children adopted from care often have complex needs, with few services available to provide timely and skilled therapeutic interventions. There is a wholesale absence of empirical evidence that can justify the standing of any one intervention for adopted children, and little evidence that can give confidence for commissioners and practitioners regarding the therapeutic value of any one approach. We envisage that this studentship will inform the types of interventions offered to adoptive families.

Relevant questions:

1. How can therapeutic interventions evidence effectiveness?
2. What time period is appropriate for measuring the effectiveness of therapeutic interventions for adoptive families?
3. In what ways does the developmental profile of children affect the outcome of therapeutic interventions for adoptive families?

The studentship will involve partnership working with staff in the Aneurin Bevan Health Board Child and Family Psychology and Therapies Service. The research component of the studentship will require travel within the South Wales area.

Supervision:

These studentships are 'collaborative' awards. Applicants should take careful consideration of the working title and description of the project, and may wish to contact the named member of staff for a discussion prior to applying.

What the studentship will cover:

Studentship Awards commence in October 2018 and will cover your tuition fees as well as a maintenance grant (currently £14,553 p.a. for 2017/18 for full-time students, updated each year); and includes access to an additional Research Training Support Grant (RTSG). There are other opportunities and benefits available to studentship holders, including an overseas fieldwork allowance (if applicable), internship opportunities, overseas institutional visits and other small grants.

Eligibility:

ESRC studentships are highly competitive, candidates should have an excellent academic background in the social sciences, holding a 1st or strong upper 2nd class degree; applications from those also holding a relevant research training Masters degree (or an equivalent background in research training) will be considered for a +3 award. Full awards (fees plus maintenance stipend) are open to UK Nationals and EU students who can satisfy UK residency requirements.

1+3 OR +3?

The awards are available on either a 1+3 or +3 basis. A 1+3 studentship provides funding for four years (or part-time equivalent), completing a research training Masters in the 1st year, followed by 3 years research funding for a PhD. A +3 studentship provides funding for the three years PhD research study only (or part-time equivalent).

Assessment:

The closing deadline for applications is 4pm on Thursday 1 February 2018. Short-listed applicants will be invited to interview, which are expected to take place in March 2018. After interview, a final short-list of applicants will be put forward to a Panel convened by the ESRC Wales DTP Management Group at which final decisions with regard to studentship awards will be made. In most cases successful applicants can expect to hear by mid-April 2018.

How to apply:

You can apply online - consideration is automatic on applying for a PhD in Psychology, with an October 2018 start date (programme code RFPDPSYA).

Please use our online application service at

<http://www.cf.ac.uk/regis/general/applyonline/index.html>

and specify in the funding section that you wish to be considered for School funding. Please also specify that you are applying for this particular project.

The application should also contain the following documents:

1. Covering letter: Please address this to Prof. Tony Manstead, School of Psychology. The covering letter must set out your reasons and motivation for applying to study at Cardiff University, in the Psychology pathway; your understanding, and expectations of doctoral study; and your academic interests generally, and particularly of those relating to your proposed research. The covering letter should be no more than two pages. Please also specify which pathway you will be applying to and whether you wish to apply on a +3 or 1+3 basis.
2. Academic / Professional Qualifications: Where appropriate, this should also include proof of English Language Competency (7.0 IELTS minimum).

3. References: All applications require two academic references to be submitted in support. Candidates must approach referees themselves and include the references with their application.

4. Curriculum Vitae: This should be no longer than two pages.

5. Research Proposal: For collaborative studentships, the proposal should build directly on the outline description that has been supplied. The proposal should be up to a maximum of 1000 words, not including bibliographic references. We suggest that you use the following five headings in your research proposal:

- Your reflections on the title, aims and purpose of the research;
- An overview of some key research literature relevant to the study;
- Your proposals for developing the design and methods of the study;
- A description of potential outcomes of the project for understanding, knowledge, policy and practice

Application deadline: February 1st with interviews (either in person or by Skype) being held on or around March and decisions being made by April.

General Information:

The School of Psychology is one of the largest and most successful in the UK (<http://www.cf.ac.uk/psych/>). The School's excellent standard of research and teaching has been recognised in every Research Assessment Exercise. It has its own brain-imaging centre (<http://www.cf.ac.uk/psych/cubric/>), enhancing the international-leading research in behavioural neuroscience, cognitive ergonomics, forensic, social and developmental psychology.

Cardiff is the youngest capital city in Europe and the fastest growing in the UK. It plays host to many national and international sporting events at the Millennium Stadium (<http://www.millenniumstadium.com/>). Culturally, the city is thriving, with the Wales Millennium Centre (<http://www.wmc.org.uk/>) in Cardiff Bay. Cardiff is in very close proximity to the beautiful Welsh countryside (<http://www.breconbeacons.org/>), has a two hour rail link to London and a (cheap) one hour air link to Paris and Amsterdam (<http://www.cardiffairportonline.com/>)

Please address any informal enquiries to:

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