Apply for Interactive Informed Consent (I-TIC) PhD Studentship

City University SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES

A competitive PhD studentship application process is now open: submission deadline 27 May 2016. The three-year PhD studentship provides £16K per year (tax-free), with all fees for PhD registration paid and research costs up to £1K (total). (Non EU students would have to subsidise the relevant fees.)
**Start date:** 1 October 2016

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<th>Proposed by</th>
<th>1st supervisor</th>
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<td>Research Centre</td>
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<td>Project Title</td>
<td>Can an online interactive Tool for Informed Consent (iTIC) improve the process of gaining informed consent for research?</td>
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Informed consent is a cornerstone of ethical health research. Nonetheless, empirical studies show participants are often unaware they have been enrolled in a research study or what a research study is about. Self-enrolment of participants into online studies, including to randomized trials, has grown exponentially. It is important that online consent is truly informed. We embedded recording systems in our own consent pages for online studies and found people did not stay on the page long enough to read it before giving consent (Antoniou 2011).

A recent review of interventions to improve informed consent concluded that enhanced consent forms and extended discussions improve understanding and that identification of best practices for studies of informed consent interventions would be helpful (Nishimura 2013).

This PhD would: systematically review best practice for obtaining remote informed consent; iteratively develop with users an online interactive tool for informed consent (iTIC) that can be adapted to different projects; investigate whether “test to learn” processes are usable and acceptable to different types of participants; investigate whether they are effective for ensuring that consent is truly informed and whether, for example, they can improve understanding for low literacy participants; undertake a qualitative study with researchers to explore their views of iTIC; compare iTIC to traditional informed consent in other research studies where it is logistically feasible for potential participants to be randomized to either method of informed consent. Exploring whether it affects recruitment rates, participant understanding, participant satisfaction, researcher satisfaction, adherence, retention rates or the efficiency of conducting the study.
Recommended Skills / Prior Learning

1. Skills in qualitative research methods
2. Skills in quantitative research methods
3. Understanding about how to conduct a systematic review

All application forms should be submitted by email to the doctoral degrees support officer, Tracy Rowson (SHSPHDStudentships2016@city.ac.uk). To apply for PhD studentship funding, please include a short cover letter with your application and research proposal (based on the topic described above) and submit with your completed application form by 27 May 2016.

City University London is a global university committed to academic excellence with a focus on business and the professions and an enviable central London location. The University is in the top five per cent of universities in the world according to the Times Higher Education World University Rankings and attracts around 19,500 students (35% at postgraduate level) from 150 countries. It is well above the sector average for graduate employability in most of its subjects, is in the top ten in the UK for starting salaries and is the top university in London for student satisfaction. City joins the University of London federation in 2016.

In the recent Research Excellence Framework, City made a greater improvement in research quality, per Funding Council research pound, than any other UK university. 40% of its total academic staff are producing research that is world-leading or internationally excellent.