



QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST

*Title of studentship	Optimising pharmacological treatment of non-cognitive symptoms in people with dementia
Value / what is covered?	
Awarding body	
Number of studentships	1
*Summary descriptive text / Example of research project	Non-cognitive symptoms experienced by people with dementia may include agitation, aggression, distress, psychosis, anxiety and depression. The management of non-cognitive symptoms in people with dementia is often challenging and if left untreated, such symptoms can accelerate decline, reduce quality of life, and cause substantial distress to both patients and carers. Often non-pharmacological management options are recommended first-line, but pharmacological management may need to be considered if the patient does not respond to non-pharmacological approaches. However, some pharmacological treatments need to be prescribed with caution and evaluated regularly. This mixed-methods project will investigate current prescribing of pharmacological treatments for non-cognitive symptoms in people with dementia and explore the experiences of key stakeholders (such as people with dementia, their carers, relevant healthcare professionals), in order to assess how prevention and treatment of non-cognitive symptoms may be improved and optimised for this patient population.
*Supervisor(s)	Dr. Heather Barry (School of Pharmacy) Prof. Carmel Hughes (School of Pharmacy) Dr. Bernadette McGuinness (Centre for Public Health)
*Eligibility / residence Status	
Country	Northern Ireland
*Start date and duration	1 October 2020
*Faculty	MHLS
*Research centre / School	Pharmacy
Subject area	Healthcare delivery and medicines optimisation

Candidate requirements / Key skills required for the post	Applicants should have a 1st or 2.1 honours degree (or equivalent) in a relevant subject. Relevant subjects include Pharmacy, Molecular Biology, Pharmaceutical Sciences, Biochemistry, Biological/Biomedical Sciences, Chemistry, Engineering, or a closely related discipline. Students who have a 2.2 honours degree and a Master's degree may also be considered, but the School reserves the right to shortlist for interview only those applicants who have demonstrated high academic attainment to date
*Deadline for applications	January 2020
*How to apply / contacts	Postgraduate Research applicants for Pharmacy who are interested in applying for a fully funded DFE studentship must have applied to Queen's, via the Direct Applications Portal, and submitted all required supporting documents by the closing date, which will be announced later in the Academic year. https://dap.qub.ac.uk/portal/user/u_login.php
Relevant links / more information	http://www.qub.ac.uk/schools/SchoolofPharmacy/Research/PostgraduatePositions/ http://www.qub.ac.uk/schools/SchoolofPharmacy/Research/
Keywords for search filters	Older people, dementia, primary care, healthcare professionals, medicines optimisation
Training provided through the research project	The successful candidate will receive training in relevant quantitative and qualitative research methodologies and other generic research skills, such as delivering presentations, scientific writing/writing for publication, and time management.
Expected impact activities	This project will provide a clearer understanding of the gaps in the evidence-base on management of non-cognitive symptoms in dementia, and may help to inform the development of new approaches that prevent or treat illness-related symptoms and consequences of dementia.