

Fully funded 3-year PhD studentship with the London Interdisciplinary Social Science Doctoral Training Partnership

Title	The concept and determinants of return on investment for quality improvement in mental health NHS Foundation Trusts (KC-LISSDTP-2020)
To start	01/10/2020
Award(s)	PhD studentship - London Interdisciplinary Social Science Doctoral Training Partnership
Project	<p>A fully funded PhD studentship (tuition fees plus stipend) is available for supporting an outstanding candidate to embark on a project that addresses knowledge gaps in generating evidence for quality improvement in healthcare.</p> <p>The candidate should have a strong foundation in quantitative social science. They must have an interest to develop interdisciplinary scholarship in psychometrics, health economics and quality improvement. The candidate will work closely with the central quality improvement unit and actively engage Trust-wide senior management of the South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust. At the Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience, they will be hosted by a vibrant academic faculty with world leading expertise in implementation and improvement science.</p> <p>This CASE PhD project will develop a measurement system for evaluating return on investment (ROI) of quality improvement projects in mental health services of the South London and Maudsley (SLaM) NHS Foundation Trust. Quality improvement in healthcare has seen a surge of investment amidst times of austerity in the UK. Very little guidance exists for evaluating return on investment, particularly in mental health NHS Foundation Trusts. This impedes communication with healthcare leaders and boards regarding the extent quality improvement is achieving its full potential within the organisation.</p> <p>A robust ROI measure will make it possible to generate regular reports for healthcare leaders. These routine reports can provide a big picture to give healthcare leaders strategic insights about the extent resource commitments in quality improvement paid off. On this basis, decisions can be made about investment strategies for capacity building, training and support. We would also be able to compare NHS Foundation Trusts in terms of ROI of their organisational strategies and quality priorities. By generating insights on ROI, the routine use of this measure can also foster a culture of organisational learning that is pivotal for a learning healthcare system.</p> <p>Phase 1: Conceptual development for ROI metrics The substantive relevance of ROI metrics will be anchored on Value Based Healthcare. A key organisational strategy adopted by the King's Health Partners, Value Based Healthcare is about achieving better outcomes and experiences for every person with the equitable, sustainable and transparent use of the available resources. The research will begin with a systematic review of health economics and quality improvement literature about how ROI has been assessed and utilised in healthcare, followed by thematic analysis of in-depth interviews / focus groups with the executive leadership team (e.g., Medical Director / Chief Financial / Operating Officer) as well as the senior management team (e.g., Clinical / Service Directors). Knowledge gained from this study phase will lay the initial foundations of a conceptual framework for ROI metrics.</p> <p>Phase 2: Operationalisation of ROI conceptual framework To translate the conceptual framework into a measure that can be embedded for routine reporting, instrument design will draw on psychometrics as well as implementation and improvement science frameworks. Pilot versions of the ROI measure will be examined by Delphi panels where the executive leadership and senior management teams will review content validity and item design, as well as debate on implementation issues like acceptability, reach, and sustainability of routine ROI</p>

	<p>reports. A field-test version of ROI metrics will be generated at the end of this study phase.</p> <p>Phase 3: Field testing of ROI metrics Empirical validation of the field-test version will be carried out to further refine the conceptual foundations. Primary data collection will take place in three psychiatric hospitals of SLaM (Bethlem Royal Hospital, Lambeth Hospital and the Maudsley Hospital). Construct validation will employ latent variable modelling techniques based on item response theory and structural equation modelling frameworks. The results will be used to establish the conceptual and empirical foundations of ROI metrics for quality improvement across mental health NHS Foundation Trusts.</p>
Supervisors	<p>IoPPN: Dr Kia-Chong Chua IoPPN: Professor Nick Sevdalis SLaM NHS: Dr Barbara Grey</p>
Entry requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LISS DTP: https://liss-dtp.ac.uk/case-studentships-student-applicants/ IoPPN: https://www.kcl.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/research-courses/health-service-and-population-research-mphil-phd-mdres
Award types and eligibility	<p>Fully funded for three years full time, Home/EU tuitions fees (studentship not available to Overseas applicants) plus a stipend. There will also be opportunities to apply for additional funding in aid of the student's training development and research activity.</p>
Further information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Academic department: https://www.kcl.ac.uk/psychology-systems-sciences/about/departments/health-service-and-population-research Studentship: https://liss-dtp.ac.uk/studentships/managing-your-liss-dtp-studentship/
How to apply	<p>Applicants must complete and submit an online admissions application, via the admissions portal by midnight (23:59 GMT), Sunday 23rd February 2020.</p> <p>Applicants should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply for Health Service and Population Research – e.g. “<i>On the ‘Choosing a programme’ page, please select ‘Health Service and Population Research MPhil/PhD (Full-time)’</i>”. Add the code to the funding section – e.g. “<i>In the Funding section, please tick box 5 and include the following reference: KC-LISSDTP-2020</i>”. <p>Application Portal: https://apply.kcl.ac.uk/</p> <p>Please note there is no need to complete the Research Proposal section in your application as the project has already been set.</p> <p>Informal inquiries are encouraged, please email:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr Kia-Chong Chua (kia-chong.chua@kcl.ac.uk) <p>If you have any queries regarding the application process, please contact the Postgraduate Research Administrator.</p> <p>Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted.</p>
Closing Date	Sunday 23 rd February 2020
Interviews	Monday 9 th March 2020