**Preventative Health PhD**

**Studentship Scheme**

**Application Guidance**

**ALPHAcademy, Bangor University**

**2022/23**

General Guidance

Please read this guidance thoroughly before completing your application.

1. Introduction to the Call

ALPHAcademy is inviting applications for our Preventative Health PhD Studentship Scheme. This exciting PhD opportunity will support talented individuals to conduct doctoral research in a topic related to preventative health and health equity.

This scheme aims to build research capacity within the health and social care setting in Wales. At this time we will fund up to two high-quality research projects which address the prevention agenda within health and social care in Wales. Applications from proposed supervisors are welcome across a broad range of topic areas related to preventative health and health equity

Our focus is on prevention - helping people stay healthy, happy and independent for as long as possible, not just treating them when they become ill. Recognising the influence of wider social determinants, ALPHAcademy brings together leaders and aspiring leaders from across services to learn by doing, utilising evidence-based insights.

The funding call is purposefully broad, so all applications which meet the general remit are eligible for consideration. We are particularly interested in projects which address at least one of the priority areas outlined in the [A Healthier Wales](https://gov.wales/healthier-wales-long-term-plan-health-and-social-care?_ga=2.88880155.1873339298.1568289876-84026670.1558448781) Welsh Government guidance (<https://gov.wales/healthier-wales-long-term-plan-health-and-social-care>), and which include collaboration with external partners (such as health boards and third sector organisations).

We also strongly encourage collaboration between supervisors from different departments, schools or colleges within Bangor University, therefore priority will be given to projects which demonstrate cross-departmental collaboration between applicants.

The deadline for submission of applications is **13:00pm on 28/11/2022**. Applications received after the deadline will notbe assessed. Finaldecisions will be announced by **22/12/2022**.

Although we encourage Applicants to consider seeking matched-funding for the PhD through partnership with a external partner, we will consider applications that would be entirely funded by ALPHAcademy.

1. Eligibility criteria

* The host institution must be Bangor University
* Applications must come from two applicants based at Bangor University at the time of applying
* Applicants must have a permanent Bangor University contract of at least 0.6 FTE.
* Applications must come from the proposed PhD supervisors, who will be defined as the Applicants to this scheme and who will recruit the student, with support from ALPHAcademy.
* On receipt of an award, successful applicants must recruit a suitable student to the project by a negotiated deadline.
* Applications must have support from Head of Department
* Applications are encouraged to involve a partner (e.g. health board, third sector organisation) that can add value to the proposed research project, although this is not essential.
* Applicants must be willing for a member of the ALPHAcademy to act as a third supervisor for the PhD to provide preventative health expertise.
* Applications must relate to preventive health, health equity or a related health or social care topic area.
* The scheme cannot be used to fund part of an existing course of studies leading to a PhD qualification.
* Requested funding must include an annual stipend of £17,668 per student - research costs must not exceed £5000 and the total requested funding must not exceed £72,892.

1. Financial limits and reporting

Tuition fees (£4596 per year) and a student stiped of £17,668 per year (full-time, pro-rata for part-time) will be covered by the funder. Additional support costs will also be provided for research support up to a limit of £5000 per studentship, as well as budget for conference attendance (limit of £300 per studentship) and IT equipment (limit of £800 per studentship). Research support costs may be used flexibly by applicants.

If the proposed project will incur any additional costs over and above these stated costs, please provide further details and justification on the application form. ALPHAcademy retains to right to refuse any costs not considered to be essential to the conduct of the PhD. The total cost of the PhD studentship, including student stipend and tuitions fees, must not exceed £72,892

The terms and conditions of the Grant for successful applicants will be defined in a Grant Offer Letter. The successful applicant will receive quarterly grant award payments on receipt of satisfactory quarterly reports. An End of Studentship Project Report is expected by the end of the funding period. If required, further unfunded time may be negotiated for thesis completion and submission.

1. **Declarations and Applicant CV**

Signatures are required from the Applicants to confirm that they have read and understood this guidance document and completed the application form accordingly. The Applicants’ Head of Department also needs to sign to confirm support for the application. If applicants are from different departments, schools or colleges, both applicants will need to seek Head of Department approval. Applications that do not contain all the necessary signatures will be rejected.

To maintain consistency of information across all the CVs submitted, and to help with consistent assessment, please complete the template CV provided in the application form.

The Applicant should provide information under the following headings:

* Research experience
* Qualifications
* PhD supervision experience
* Work history
* Significant grants won
* Publications

The Applicants’ CVs form part of the application document and should be no longer than two sides of A4 with font no smaller than Arial 11.

1. **Submitting the Application Form**

The Application Form (including the Applicants’ CVs) should be submitted as a Word document or PDF with all required authorised signatures (scanned or electronic) included.

The form should be submitted by the Applicants (i.e. PhD Supervisors) to the following address: [alphacademy@bangor.ac.uk](mailto:alphacademy@bangor.ac.uk)

The deadline for submission of applications is **13:00pm on 28/11/2022**

Please note that all elements of the full application must be received by the deadline or the application will be deemed incomplete and may not be accepted.

1. **Application assessment process**

The Preventative Health PhD Studentship Scheme currently operates a two-stage application process. In the first stage the assessment steps are as follows:

1. Eligibility and basic competitiveness checks to ensure applications are within the call and scheme remit, and meet criteria necessary to progress to full assessment.
2. ALPHAcademy Studentship Committee (ASC) will review application quality, including review of academic merit and suitability of applicants.
3. The ASC will make final funding recommendations and inform applicants.

Applications will be subject to examination to ensure they fit with the scheme’s remit and eligibility conditions. All applications deemed to be eligible will be reviewed for relevance and significance to the funding remit by the ASC. The ASC is scientific committee which will assess the all-round scientific quality and merit of the applications, along with the track record of the Applicants. The criteria that will be applied are outlined below.

* Project
  + Aims and objectives
  + Design and methods
  + Planning and use of resources
  + Method of analysis
  + Expected outputs and outcomes
  + Patient and public involvement and engagement
  + Dissemination and impact
* Environment:
  + Contribution and track record of the PhD supervisors
  + External partnership, training and development plans and opportunities

The ASC will make final funding decisions, taking in to account the strength of the applications and the available resources. We expect to inform all applicants of the outcome by **22/12/2022.**

In the second stage of the application process the ASC will work with successful Applicants to appoint a PhD student, including potential advertising and interviewing. The ASC will assist successful applicants to make final decisions on the appointment of a student, and reserve the right to reject potential students if they are deemed to not have the necessary experience or expertise. Failure to recruit a student by a negotiated date may result in withdrawal of the studentship award.

Following funding decisions, Grant Offer Letters will be sent to successful applicants, which will include terms and conditions. As part of these procedures, payment and reporting profiles will be issued.

ALPHAcademy request that successful applicants inform the funder immediately of any change in circumstances that will affect proposed start/end dates of the project.

Unsuccessful applicants will be entitled to request feedback. This will be provided as a courtesy, though ALPHAcademy is unable to enter into any discussion regarding the outcome or the feedback provided.

**Contact us**

If you have any questions regarding the application process, please email us: [ALPHAcademy@bangor.ac.uk](mailto:ALPHAcademy@bangor.ac.uk)