

School of Life and Health Sciences

Fully-Funded Full-Time PhD Studentship

The Gambling Harms Paradox: Are people from lower SES groups more likely to suffer harmful consequences than people from higher SES groups despite equivalent exposure?

Main Supervisor: Professor Richard Tunney; Associate Supervisor: Dr Michael Larkin

Background: The Harms Paradox: When matched for levels of alcohol consumption people from deprived communities suffer greater ill-health than people from more affluent communities (Mackenbach et al, 2015). The purpose of this research is to investigate whether the same phenomenon is also true for gambling behaviour. Does gambling behaviour cluster like other public health priorities? How is socio-economic status a risk factor in the transition from recreational to problem gamblers.

Activities: The first phase will involve work with recreational gamblers to identify indicators of gambling related harm. The second phase will look for the incidence and frequency of these indicators in the general population using survey data including the Health Survey for England (2012) data Health Survey for England (2015, to be published February 2017) from the UK data archive. A potential third phase could involve the development and of a psychometric instrument to predict individuals who are susceptible to transitioning from recreational to problem gambling. We know from the literature on alcohol related harm that intrinsic and extrinsic pressures are predictive of the degree of harm that result from the behaviour. The aim here is to determine which ones, and in which combination, are most likely to trigger this transition.

Aston University was ranked 5th out of 94 UK Higher Education Institutions for research in Allied Health Professions (REF 2014) and was ranked 1st for research environment. Additional information about research in the School can be found at <http://www.aston.ac.uk/lhs/research/>. Informal enquiries can be made to Prof. Richard Tunney at: richard.tunney@nottingham.ac.uk.

Financial Support:

The studentship is open to Home/EU students only and comprises of a tax-free stipend at the 2018/19 RCUK rate of £14,777 per annum and payment of Home/EU tuition fees only. The studentship is available for three years, subject to satisfactory progress review at the end of the first year, **with an anticipated registration of 1st October 2018.**

Application Requirements:

- Eligible Applicants should hold at least a Bachelor (Hons.) Degree of either 1st Class/ 2.1 or MSc/MRes in a relevant subject.
- EU Applicants will need to demonstrate adequate proficiency in English Language skills, with a minimum overall score of **93** (Internet Based) (with a minimum score in each section of: **R: 18, W: 23, L: 19 and S: 19**) in TOEFL or IELTS with minimum marks of **6.0** in each section and an overall band of **6.5**.
- To apply, please complete the on-line application form at: <http://www1.aston.ac.uk/lhs/research/postgraduate-research/apply/> , choosing 'Research Full-time Health Sciences - September 2018'. Please quote Reference: 'PhD_Oct 2018_Tunney or Larkin' on your application.
- **The Closing Date for all Applications is: Thursday, 30th August 2018**