

**UP TO 3 ESRC PROJECT LINKED PhD STUDENTSHIPS
UNIVERSITY OF YORK**

Up to three project linked studentships are available in the Health, Econometrics and Data Group (HEDG) based at the University of York. HEDG is an initiative involving collaboration between the Centre for Health Economics (CHE) and the Department of Economics and Related Studies (DERS), with a focus on the quantitative analysis of health, health-related behaviour and health care. The studentships are available from 1st October 2009.

PROJECTS

The studentships are linked to a recently awarded ESRC Large Grant (RES-060-25-0045) to support the research and training activities of HEDG. We are seeking applications from those interested in pursuing postgraduate research leading to PhD under the following two themes.

Inequality of opportunity in health

Researchers based at HEDG have a track record in innovative quantitative analysis of inequalities in health and health care. The next challenge for this literature is to incorporate the concept of inequality of opportunity. Compensating for the impact of circumstances that are beyond individual control, but holding individuals responsible for the consequences of their choices, equality of opportunity is an appealing compromise between strict equality of outcomes and equity of formal rights. Two types of variables are essential for measuring inequality of opportunity in health: background variables, which constitute the set of circumstances beyond individual control and effort factors that are controlled by the individual and with potential repercussions for health. This research will develop empirical approaches to the measurement of inequality of opportunity and evaluate the impact of policies aimed at its reduction.

Evaluation of public health interventions: econometric methods and micro-simulation

Policymakers and public health researchers continue to demand better evidence of the effects of policy initiatives and interventions on health outcomes and health inequalities. Traditionally, the evaluation of policy interventions has relied on ex-post evaluations of natural experiments or data from non-experimental sources. Micro-simulation has been suggested as an alternative instrument for evaluative analysis. The method of micro-simulation involves taking a sample of individuals (or households) from an appropriate survey based dataset and simulating the behavioural response of those individuals following a policy intervention of interest. The updated information on individuals resulting from the simulation forms the basis for assessing the impact of the policy under evaluation. This can be supplemented to incorporate simulations of the wider economic benefits of improved health status. This research will investigate the use of both micro-simulation and more traditional evaluative techniques as an appropriate tool to evaluate health policies.

SUPERVISION AND RESEARCH ENVIRONMENT

The successful candidates will be supervised by Professors Andrew Jones and Nigel Rice, registered through the Department of Economics and Related Studies (DERS: ESRC reference code: YOR05000) and located within the Centre for Health Economics. Students will have access to the research facilities within the ESRC-funded Alcuin Research Resource Centre (ARRC) and in particular the Data Analysis Laboratory (DAL) which provides remote access to a high performance computing cluster holding a range of proprietary software.

AWARD

The studentships will cover full tuition fees at Home/EU level as well as a maintenance grant, currently £12,940 per year, for three years.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Applicants must have been ordinarily resident in the UK throughout the 3-year period immediately preceding the date of the award. Full award is available to UK residents only. Other EU nationals may receive awards which cover tuition fees. Eligibility criteria are available on the ESRC website: http://www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk/ESRCInfoCentre/Images/GUIDANCE%20NOTES%20FOR%20APPLICANTS%202008_tcm6-7186.pdf

Candidates should have a Master degree in health economics or economics with a substantial component in econometrics or related quantitative subject.

HOW TO APPLY

A complete graduate application form should be sent to Professor Andrew Jones, Department of Economics and Related Studies or Professor Nigel Rice, Centre for Health Economics, University of York, Heslington, York, YO10 5DD. Please indicate clearly on the form that you wish to be considered for one of these awards.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS

The deadline for applications is 10 August 2009. Shortlisted candidates can expect to be interviewed.

FURTHER DETAILS

Informal enquires for these studentships can be made directly to Professor Andrew Jones (amj1@york.ac.uk) or Professor Nigel Rice (nr5@york.ac.uk). Application forms can be found at the following website: <http://www.york.ac.uk/graduatestudy/applying/paper/forms/>

