



PhD Health Studentships Committee

Current Health Studentships Committee Members*

Professor Paul Morgan (Chair)	Cardiff University
Professor Martin Caraher	City University London
Dr Gwyneth Davies	Swansea University
Dr Ruth Davies	Swansea University
Professor Robert van Deursen	Cardiff University
Dr Ed Dudley	Swansea University
Professor Gareth Jenkins	Swansea University
Professor Ken Jones	Cardiff Metropolitan University
Professor Venkateswarlu Kanamarlapudi	Swansea University
Dr Paul Lewis	Swansea University
Professor Keith Lloyd	Swansea University
Dr Keith Morris	Cardiff Metropolitan University
Mrs Karen Shepherd	Public Member
Dr Rhys Thatcher	Aberystwyth University
Dr Eiddwen Thomas	Public Member
Professor Nick Topley	Cardiff University
Professor Reyer Zwigelaar	Aberystwyth University

*Correct as at March 2017.

Committee Role

Before being assessed by the Studentship Committee, applications will be reviewed to ensure fit with the scheme's remit and eligibility conditions, and reviewed for policy relevance. The Studentship Committee provides independent recommendations to

Health and Care Research Wales following its assessment the all-round quality of the application from a scientific perspective. The criteria applied are outlined below:

Project

- Scientific merit
- Methodology
- Planning and resources
- Impact and dissemination.

Institution

- Quality of the host department or school
- Contribution and track record of the PhD Supervisor
- Training and development.

The Studentship Committee will make funding recommendations to Health and Care Research Wales. Health and Care Research Wales will make the final funding decisions, taking into account the strength of Committee recommendations and available resources. These decisions are final and are not open to appeal.

Committee Selection and Management of Conflicts of Interest

The Research & Development Division (RDD) within the Health and Social Services Group of the Welsh Government creates external, independent Committees to advise it on the quality of applications for Health and Care Research Wales research funding (e.g. through the Research Funding Scheme, the Research for Public and Patient Benefit Scheme, and Fellowship and Studentship funding schemes).

Committee Selection

1. All Committees will be recruited through an open, competitive process.
2. When a new Committee is created, or an existing Board refreshed, an advert for members will be posted on the Health and Care Research Wales website.
3. Potential members will be asked to submit an expression of interest.
4. Expressions of interest will be reviewed by officials from the Division's Senior Management Team and Grants Team, in conjunction with the relevant Committee Chair and Deputy Chair. Membership will be offered to those applicants felt to be most suitably qualified and able to commit the time required.
5. A key selection consideration will be to ensuring that Committees are balanced in terms of the breadth of methodological and topic-based expertise.
6. In cases where there is a perceived gap in expertise that has not been filled by open recruitment, the Division may look to identify and approach specific individuals able to fill the gap.
7. In addition public members (usually two) will be sought for each Committee. Public members will be recruited via open advert on the Health and Care Research Wales website and through the Involving People team.
8. A separate open and competitive process will be run to identify the Chair and Deputy Chair. Applicants will be required to submit an expression of interest for this role and can expect to be interviewed by senior officials from the Division.

9. The Chair will be non-voting but will be expected to manage processes around Committee discussion and assessment, ensuring that the Board delivers clear recommendations to the Division.
10. All Committee members will be provided with terms of reference, including information about individual responsibilities and rules relating to conflict of interest.
11. In the interests of transparency, the names of all Committee members will be published on the Health and Care Research Wales website.

Conflicts of Interest

1. Following provisional selection, all Committee members will be asked to complete a form and provide a CV capturing their institutional affiliations, areas of expertise and research interests. These will be held and collated by the Division's Grants Team.
2. Subject to the absence of any conflicts that would prevent an individual being a Committee member (e.g. Head of a major research school or department in Wales that would require the member to be a signatory on a significant number of applications to the scheme) membership will be agreed.
3. For each new funding call, information held by the Division's Grant Team will be used to help identify potential conflicts of interest in relation to applications received.
4. Potential conflicts will be discussed with Committee members and drawn to the attention of the Chair in advance of the meeting and in chairing notes.
5. The Committee Chair will be responsible for managing the conflict of interest process at the meeting itself, and for taking appropriate action in response to known or declared conflicts. Current rules for conflict of interest declaration and process are set out in Annex 1 below.

Conflict of Interest: Declaration and Process

The Chair will seek declarations of conflict *before* the presentation and discussion of each application. Committee members should promptly declare any actual, potential or perceived conflicts affecting them. Clear conflicts of interest include:

- Being a lead or co-applicant on the application
- Being a named collaborator on an application
- Being a signatory of any sort on the application
- Having a family connection with the lead or co-applicant
- Having a close working relationship with the lead or co-applicant

Any other potential conflicts of interest should be raised for Committee consideration and discussion. Committee members with a clear or agreed conflict of interest are unable to contribute to the discussion and assessment of an application. Conflicted Committee members will be required to leave the meeting while the conflicting application is discussed. Conflicts of interest will be recorded in the formal minutes of the meeting.