

**Queen Mary University of London
School of Languages, Linguistics and Film**

Life Sciences Initiative PhD Studentship

Application deadline: 8 May 2017

The School of Languages, Linguistics and Film at Queen Mary University of London (<http://slf.qmul.ac.uk>) is pleased to announce Life Sciences Initiative PhD Studentship on the theme of 'Mental health advocacy on social media'. The studentship involves collaboration between the Language Centre and Unit for Social & Community Psychiatry, Wolfson Institute of Preventive Medicine.

Key Details

- Project Title: Mental health advocacy on social media: An ethnographic study
- Supervisors: Dr Nelya Koteyko (Language Centre, School of Languages, Linguistics and Film), Dr Domenico Giacco, Prof Stefan Priebe (Unit for Social & Community Psychiatry, Wolfson Institute of Preventive Medicine)
- Primary School/Institute: School of Languages, Linguistics and Film <http://slf.qmul.ac.uk>
- Secondary School/Institute: Unit for Social & Community Psychiatry, Wolfson Institute of Preventive Medicine <http://www.wolfson.qmul.ac.uk/centres/cfp/social-community>

Project description:

Social networking sites/SNS such as Facebook and Twitter have introduced large-scale changes to how we engage in communication and management of relationships, emotions, and bodies. The project addresses the need to examine how the new technological affordances underlying SNS may be reshaping both health activism practices and illness experiences in the area of mental health. Advocacy practices via SNS blur the lines between professional and lay expertise, are based on the socially inclusive, community models, and draw on textual, visual (images, photos, videos), and electronic (e.g. hyperlinks) modes of representation in order to foster engagement and render the 'invisible' aspects of mental illness visible. Drawing on the research and supervisory expertise in linguistics and social psychiatry this interdisciplinary study will provide a systematic analysis of how SNS are used by UK mental health advocacy organisations and how such uses may be (re-) shaping professional and lay experiences of engagement and support.

The candidate will have background in health communication and/or applied linguistics and will receive further training in both qualitative (ethnography in the context of mental health support services) and quantitative (corpus linguistics) methods by the supervisory team and through relevant courses in the two departments. The candidate will also be exposed to a cutting edge interdisciplinary research on e-health via membership of the British Association for Applied Linguistics Special Interest Group 'Health and Science Communication' http://www.baal.org.uk/h_s_comm_sig.html

The Award:

The Life Sciences Studentship is open to suitably qualified candidates from the UK & EU only. The Studentship will cover tuition fees and £16,553 a year for maintenance for 3 years, plus £1k per annum research consumables budget. The award holder will be expected to be resident in London during the 3-year period of the studentship.

Duration of Studentship: 3 years

Please address any enquiries to **Nelya Koteyko** n.koteyko@qmul.ac.uk (interested candidates are encouraged to get in touch early to discuss the project and any other questions).

Application:

The application form can be found via the following link (under 'PhD full time Applied Linguistics') <http://www.qmul.ac.uk/postgraduate/research/subjects/linguistics/index.html>

Closing date for applications is 8 May 2017. All short-listed applicants will be interviewed shortly after the closing date (either face-to-face or by Skype).