School of Computing, Engineering, and the Built Environment
Edinburgh Napier University

PHD STUDENT PROJECT

Funding and application details

Funding status: Self-funded students only

Application instructions:
Detailed instructions are available at https://www.napier.ac.uk/research-and-innovation/research-degrees/how-to-apply

Prospective candidates are encouraged to contact the Director of Studies (see details below) to discuss the project and their suitability for it.

Project details

Supervisory Team:
- DIRECTOR OF STUDY: Frances Ryan (Email: F.Ryan@napier.ac.uk)
- 2ND SUPERVISOR:

Subject Group: Applied informatics

Research Areas: Computer science, Communication and media studies, Information services, librarianship

Project Title: The use digital tools and online information for the self-management of health

Project description:
This is an open call for research proposals related to the broad area of the use of digital and e-health tools and/or online information for the self-management of health and wellness. Proposals should primarily focus on patient experiences but may also consider other aspects of health, for example (1) how such tools and information affect the patient-practitioner dynamic or (2) how they are used by family-based carers. Proposals should be anchored in the domain of Information Science with a focus on human information behaviour, information seeking and use, and/or social informatics and online information.

We would be especially interested in proposals that use qualitative research methods to consider online information-sharing behaviours related to long-term or chronic health conditions or those from a carer's perspective that consider the use of e-health tools by a "proxy" or information intermediary.

Perspective applicants are encouraged to contact the Supervisor before submitting their applications. Applications should make it clear the project you are applying for and the name of the supervisors.

References:

Candidate characteristics

Education:
A second class honour degree or equivalent qualification in Library and information science or similar, Media and communications or Informatics

Subject knowledge:
Candidate should possess a good fundamental knowledge of information-based concepts and use, and of digital tools and online information sharing platforms.

Essential attributes:
- Experience with fundamental principles of social science or information sciences
- Competent in qualitative research methods and data analysis
- Knowledge of online environments, applications, and tools (beyond casual use of social networking sites)
- Good written and oral communication skills
- Strong motivation, with evidence of independent research skills relevant to the project
- Good time management

Desirable attributes:
- Intellectual curiosity with a willingness to consider new and different perspectives
- Interest in or knowledge of e-health tools, health-related online communities, or digital proxies/ information intermediaries.