



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

PHD STUDENT PROJECT

Application instructions:

Detailed instructions are available at:

<https://www.napier.ac.uk/research-and-innovation/doctoral-college/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: Dr Emilia Sobolewska (Email: e.sobolewska@napier.ac.uk)
- 2ND SUPERVISOR: Dr Carl Strathearn

Subject Group: Applied Informatics

Research Areas: Human-Computer Interaction, Human-Robot Interaction

Project Title: Coping with Social Robots and Artificial Intelligence in the Context of Care

Project description:

The project concerns the spectrum of societal, technological, user-related, and context-dependent implications of involving Social Robots and Artificial Intelligence in the field of Care. Despite facing austerity and labour cuts over the last two decades, healthcare staff are expected to increase efficiency while adapting to digitalisation with minimal support (Shulzhenko & Holmgren, 2020). According to the literature, robots can have positive and negative effects on the work environment, depending on their application (Persson et al., 2021). A suggested intervention is to introduce a social robot support system, not to provide geriatric care (Vandemeulebroucke et al., 2020) or to prevent loneliness and well-being issues (Budak et al., 2021) but to support care staff in learning and adjusting to a digitalised and automated work context.

Candidate characteristics

Education:

Minimum 2:1 degree in Human-Computer Interaction, Human-Robot Interaction

Subject knowledge:

Computer Science, Artificial Intelligence, Sociology, Anthropology, Psychology or User Experience

Essential attributes:

- Interpersonal skills
- Communication skills
- Writing skills