



BIRMINGHAM CITY
Faculty of Health, Education
and Life Sciences

The Faculty of Health, Education and Life Sciences (HELS) is based at our City South Campus. The Faculty has a strong focus on the training of health and education professionals with a rapidly growing life sciences portfolio.

HELS is making major investments in growing the quality and volume of research across its three constituent Schools (The Schools of Education and Social Work, Health Sciences, and Nursing and Midwifery) through investments in academic staff and researchers, doctoral students and new labs and equipment. Excellence in Nursing, Health Sciences and Education is essential for the development of new solutions to major societal challenges including the Ageing Population; Sustainability and Health and is driven by the faculties two research Centres: The Centre for Studies in Practice and Culture in Education (CSPACE) and the Centre for Social Care, Health and Related Research (CSCHaRR).

HELS is seeking to recruit a scholar to undertake a Graduate Research and Teaching Assistant (GRTA) post in the area of well-being in Birmingham schools.

Graduate Research & Teaching Assistants (GRTA):

GRTA opportunities at Birmingham City University provide you with an opportunity to study for a PhD whilst gaining experience as an Assistant Lecturer on a funded, four-year programme. The GRTA payments consist of two elements:

1. 0.75 GRTA DTG - tax-free stipend paid monthly and has a current (2019/20) value of £11,257 per annum. The bursary is renewable annually for up to 48 months in total, subject to you making satisfactory progression within your PhD research.
2. 0.25 fixed term contract of employment (Assistant Lecturer) - renewable for up to 48 months in total, subject to satisfactory performance and progression within your PhD research. Please note that the pro rata salary for 2017-18 will be £7,213 (and this may be subject to some taxation).

This funding model also includes a FT Home fees studentship (£4,327 for 2019-20) for up to 4 years, subject to you making satisfactory progression within your PhD research.

If you are interested in a career in academia, working as a GRTA enables you to develop a range of transferable skills while building up vital work experience in your field.

GRTA opportunities are open to UK, EU and Overseas applicants. All applicants will receive the same stipend irrespective of fee status, however international applicants may be required to meet the difference in fee costs from their own funds.

How to apply

The closing date for applications is 23.59 on Wednesday 1st May 2019.

To apply, please complete the [project proposal form](#) and then complete the [online application](#) where you will be required to upload your proposal in place of a personal statement.

You can find further details on studying for a PhD and details of how to apply [here](#)

Project title: Approaches to well-being in Birmingham schools (REF: GRTAWELL)

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Approaches to well-being in Birmingham schools

The Children's Society (2018) have recognised that 5-10% of children within the UK have low well-being. By this, they mean that children may not be having their basic needs met. Well-being relates to the socio-emotional aspect of a children's development. Children's emotional well-being may manifest in the relationships that children make and the way that children communicate with others around them (Kelly, 2018). The government have recognised that promoting well-being is important during the early years of a child's life as this can go on to have an impact on the mental health of a person when they get older. Nice Guidance Quality Standard QS128 (2016) covers services to support the health, and social and emotional wellbeing of children under 5, including vulnerable children who may need extra support. It includes health visitor services, childcare and early years education, and early intervention services in children's social care. It describes high-quality care in priority areas for improvement. This highlights the interdisciplinary nature of the early years field and early help.

This is an exciting opportunity to conduct an interdisciplinary PhD study spanning the Education and Health fields to explore young children's well-being in the context of one combined authority in England. The specific area of well-being to explore will depend upon the candidate and their field of expertise and interests.

We welcome proposals that explore staff concepts of well-being in Birmingham school settings; and /or the impact on teaching staff of training, education or other interventions in the field of wellbeing, and that seek to inform policy & practice in this area. It is anticipated that the focus will be on early years /foundation and/or primary settings

This studentship stems from a partnership with Birmingham City Council. This is a unique context – it is the largest local council in the UK, covering over one million residents in forty wards. Birmingham is a 'superdiverse' city which has the youngest population in Europe. The outcomes of the study would directly inform policy and practice in the local authority.

The successful candidate is likely to have a good honours degree and/or a postgraduate degree in a relevant discipline (e.g. Education; Public Health; Sociology; Health Psychology; Social Work). Experience as a practitioner in a relevant field would be advantageous.

References

Barnardos (2018). Research Review Promoting Children's Emotional Health. [online] Barnardo's. Available at: http://www.barnardos.org.uk/promoting_children_s_emotional_health_a_research_review.pdf [Accessed 23 Feb. 2018].

Department for Education (2017) Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage. Available at: <https://www.foundationyears.org.uk/eyfs-statutory-framework/> (Accessed: 16th March 2018).

Kelly (2018). Supporting Children's Emotional Well-being. [online] Early Years Careers. Available at: <http://www.earlyyearscreers.com/eyc/latest-news/supporting-childrens-emotional-wellbeing/> [Accessed 23 Feb. 2018].

The Children's Society. (2018). What is Child Well-being?. [online] Available at: <https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/what-is-child-wellbeing> [Accessed 19 Feb. 2018].