

**Faculty of Business, Law and Social Sciences**

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| **Proposed Title:**  Exploring the value of non-pharmacological stammering interventions, from the experiences of adults who stammer |
| **School:**  The Department of Psychology within the School of Social Sciences (BLSS), and the Department of Speech and Language Therapy , Dietetics & Rehabilitation Studies , within School of Health Sciences (HELS) |
| **Proposed Supervisory Team:**  Dr Aaisha Farooqi, Dr Helen Jenkins and Dr Ian Mundy |
| Stammering is a speech disorder, which is characterised as having repetitions of words or prolongations of speech sounds and/or blocks (Yaruss, 2010). Numerous studies have investigated the effectiveness of various interventions for stammering. However, most studies have reported on behavioural treatment programmes, and there has been less examination of new approaches which have become available in recent years. Furthermore, there is a dearth of research concerning the views of adults who stammer concerning their therapy experiences and long-term outcomes (Baxter et al., 2016). The current PhD proposes to explore the value of non-pharmacological stammering interventions, from the experiences of adults who stammer. Overall, the research offers potential impact to help identify aspects of treatments that are helpful to people who stammer, particularly in regards to enhancing quality of life and wellbeing. This will inform recommendations to speech language therapists and those who currently run these programmes, to support people who stammer. |
| **Research Environment:**  Birmingham City University has invested massively in research. The PhD student on this project will have the opportunity to collaborate closely with other researchers and PhD students within BLSS. Both the Department of Psychology and Department of Speech and Language Therapy, Dietetics & Rehabilitation Studies holds regular seminars and research cluster meetings that the PhD student can participate and benefit from interaction and exchange of research ideas. |
| **Applicant Requirements:**  The ideal candidate should be a Psychology or Speech and Language Therapy graduate (with the degree qualification of 2:1 or above), and a good understanding of quantitative and qualitative research methods. A master’s degree, a genuine interest in the field, and some relevant voluntary or paid work experience would be desirable. Ideally the student should be offered the opportunity to undertake the PGCert in Research Methods. |
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