Wendy Baxter Scholarship

UWS – Alzheimer Scotland Centre for Policy and Practice

CANDIDATE PACK
Wendy Baxter Scholarship

This scholarship is designed to support an outstanding candidate to complete a full-time, applied dementia care PhD with stipend and fees paid over a period of three years. The successful candidate will join the Alzheimer Scotland Centre for Policy and Practice team as a junior researcher, benefitting from supervision from leading dementia care experts.

Who can apply to become the Wendy Baxter Scholar at UWS?

We are seeking applications from graduates who have a first class or 2:1 degree, and or a research based Masters in a relevant subject.

Applications are particularly welcome from graduates from practice-based disciplines including but not limited to nursing, care home practitioners, integrated practice and social care, palliative care or social scientists. Experience of working with people with dementia and nursing home practice will be advantageous.

The focus of the research

It is well established that caring for a relative with dementia involves both rewards and strains, and as dementia advances it is not unusual for family carers themselves to experience significant psychological impacts including anxiety and depression. Not unexpectedly, for family carers admission of a close relative with dementia to a care home is a time of emotional turbulence and adjustment. Changes in the caring dynamic and the realities of witnessing progression of a terminal condition are compounded by the complexities of advanced dementia and dementia specific palliation.

Drawing on a review of existing evidence and best practice in advanced dementia care and original data, the research will explore and collaboratively develop approaches to optimise family experiences of visiting and opportunities for involvement in individualised dementia care and creative activities. The research design is likely to draw upon either qualitative, participatory or mixed methods research.
How to apply

The online application process will require you to prepare an outline proposal responding to the focus of the research as described above. Through your outline proposal you will demonstrate your readiness to undertake doctoral level studies, your familiarity with research methods and ability to plan a relevant applied study. Importantly you should convey understanding that this scholarship is designed to advance approaches to support family members of relatives with dementia throughout their care home experience.

You can apply at https://apply.uws.ac.uk

Closing date for applications – Friday 28th May 2021.

Interviews will be held using TEAMS on Tuesday 22 June

Further application guidance

• When you first visit https://apply.uws.ac.uk you will be asked to create a Login.
• Login completed, go to ‘find a programme’ leaving the School as ‘Any’ but amend the level of study to ‘Research’
• Next you select the academic School: Research – Health and Life Sciences
• The next page will ask for the following information. Please complete these options for the PhD studentship
  • Mode of study – Full time
  • Campus - Lanarkshire
  • Start date – October 21
  • Level of entry – MPhil/PhD
• Click confirm and you will be directed to the application.

To provide a robust and fully detailed application, please consider the following advice:

• Provide a CV with full details of your previous academic and professional qualifications and employment history
• In a document entitled ‘statement of purpose’ explain why you are interested in the Wendy Baxter Scholarship and what makes you an ideal candidate

Supporting documents:

• Copy of your official degree certificate(s)
• Copy of academic qualifications or certificates, showing full details of subjects studies and grades/marks obtained
• Academic transcripts for your BSc/BA and/or MSc/MA qualifications
• Two references (one of which must be academic), on headed paper and signed by the referees

Provide an outline proposal of around 500 – 1000 words:

• The proposal should reflect the focus of the Wendy Baxter Scholarship research topic
• Originality, rigour and contribution to knowledge are key within doctoral studies
• With reference to the literature briefly justify your proposed project and choice of research design
• State the aim of the research and list 2-3 research questions or objectives
• Research design, methodology, methods, participants, analysis plan should be outlined and key ethical considerations stated
As the Medical Director of the ACCORD Hospice in Paisley, Dr Wendy Baxter was passionate about palliative care. In 2007, in recognition of her service to the development of palliative medicine in Renfrewshire, she was awarded an M.B.E. Following retirement, she became a family carer to her father with dementia. These personal experiences strengthened her resolve to call upon others to apply palliative care principles within dementia care. In her last public lecture in 2008, she spoke eloquently about the progressive nature of dementia, emphasising her concerns about the known limitations in dementia services. Diagnosed with dementia herself in 2017, Wendy spent her final months – including three during the Covid-19 lockdown – as a care home resident with dementia. Her commitment to palliative-informed and evidence-based dementia care lives on through this legacy Scholarship.
About UWS

University of the West of Scotland is one of Scotland's largest modern universities. Our reach across the south and west of Scotland, together with our London campus, means that UWS is a significant force in global knowledge creation, innovation, and a leading provider of undergraduate, postgraduate and research degree education. Our degrees provide students with a transformation experience, resulting in highly sought-after graduates in world-leading sectors, industries and businesses.

Research degrees

Postgraduate Research degrees from UWS enable you to work at the cutting-edge of your industry or sector and contribute to the advancement of knowledge.

To be a successful research student you must be passionate about your subject area, with enthusiasm for research and analysis, and the motivation to manage a personal learning programme. You will have already demonstrated research aptitude in undergraduate or masters-level studies.

As a career-focused university we work with international businesses, regional enterprises, local and international education partners to ensure that UWS research drives innovation and supports the future needs of society, industry and government. This focus increases your employability and career prospects, whether you seek a career in an academic or commercial environment.

Lanarkshire Campus

We've invested £110m to create a truly innovative, dynamic and collaborative new university campus. Hosting inspiring and flexible learning and teaching spaces packed with rich technology to give staff and students access to some of the most modern university facilities in the UK.

With state-of-the-art gym, health and fitness facilities UWS Lanarkshire Campus is also one of the UK’s greenest educational environments, powered by 100% renewable energy.

Located in one of Scotland’s most successful business parks, Hamilton International Technology Park, UWS Lanarkshire Campus seamlessly integrates industry and academia and allows for mutually beneficial partnerships between students, staff and local businesses.
The Alzheimer Centre Scotland for Policy and Practice (ASCPP) is a collaborative partnership between University of the West of Scotland and Alzheimer Scotland. The Centre team is dedicated to excellence through education and research based scholarship and partnerships in practice. As a team we are proud of our achievements and the contribution we are making to improve the lives of people affected by dementia.

The Centre is based at the University's award winning Lanarkshire Campus; winner of the 2019 Guardian University Award for ‘Sustainable buildings that inspire’. Our students also benefit from the award winning DOMUS facility, a simulated domestic environment where we explore low and high tech aids for living and care, and experience design that both helps and hinders care in the family home. Adjacent to the DOMUS are the Acorn Primary Care Unit, hospital simulation units and the Living Lab.

You can find out more about us on our webpage or by reading our Centre Report 2020.

Our purpose

**Vision:** To be a centre of excellence advancing dementia policy and practice through education, applied research and policy influence.

**Mission:** To work collaboratively with people with dementia and carers, the scientific and practice communities to advance evidence informed dementia policy and practice.

Our work focuses on three key activities:

- Applied research for policy and practice
- Education to promote evidence informed practice
- Policy influencing and implementation

At the ASCPP we believe that people with dementia deserve high quality care. We know that this is possible when:

- Practitioners have enhanced dementia knowledge and practical skills
- When enlightened policies are put into practice
- When society respects the rights of people with dementia
- When we work in partnership with people with dementia, their family and friends
Awards

The team have been nominated and won a number of awards for their innovative education, enterprise and contribution.

In 2020 we were proud to win a Collaborative Award for Teaching Excellence (CATE) from the Higher Education Academy for our ground-breaking Class in a Bag resource, created in partnership with Adult Nursing Lecturers and Alzheimer Scotland.

At Scotland's Dementia Awards 2019 the Carers Academy won Best Educational Initiative.

There were a number of successes at Scotland's Dementia Awards in 2016 including the Class in a Bag, Jenny's Diary and Lifetime Achievement Award.

At the 2016 Guardian University Awards the Dementia Palliare project was runner up in the international projects category.

A national education programme delivered by our school was shortlisted a finalist in Scotland's Dementia Awards in 2015.

Class in a Bag

We have developed Class in a Bag which is a portable educational resource which raises awareness of dementia. The resource was developed from seminal UWS research 'Dementia through the eyes of a child'.

It includes the physical resources and lesson guides for five experiential interactive workshops and supports the exploration of ways to support people living with dementia.

There are two versions available, one for use with practitioners and the lay public and the other for teachers to use with pupils to support understanding of the ageing population and intergenerational support.

Dementia Champions

The ASCPP team have made a significant contribution to workforce development in Scotland, through graduation of 1,000 Dementia Champions. Scotland’s National Dementia Champions change agent programme was developed and delivered in partnership between Alzheimer Scotland and University of the West of Scotland between 2011 and 2019. In 2018, the Dementia Champions programme was named one of the UK’s 100 Best Breakthroughs as part of Universities UK’s MadeAtUni campaign.

Research and innovation projects

Through our applied dementia research and enterprise projects we endeavour to apply evidence-based knowledge to influence policy, advance practice and improve lives. Our work recognises the different contexts and circumstances in which people age and seeks to understand individualised, personalised and collaborative ways we can help people to live the best life possible from midlife through to advanced old age. Our close links with the Scottish Dementia Research Consortium (SDRC), Scottish Dementia Working Group (SDWG) and National Dementia Carers Action Network (NDCAN) ensures we put people with dementia and family carers at the heart of everything we do.

Find out more

The information on these pages provide a flavour of the work that we do. To find out more about all of our work visit our webpage.
Informal enquiries are welcome
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