



## Press Release from Bournemouth University

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**Further information:**

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### **Bournemouth University to strengthen health research in Nepal**

Academics from Bournemouth University's School of Health & Social Care have received funding from the British Council to share its medical, nursing and public health expertise with Higher Education institutions in Nepal, one of the world's poorest countries.

Working with Tribhuvan University in Nepal, the University of Aberdeen and the Development Resource Centre, a non-government organisation in Kathmandu, the University has formed a partnership to enable institutions in Nepal to access and utilise research-based information.

Nepal has only a limited capacity in health research, which restricts its ability to implement evidence-based health care. The initiative, funded by the British Council, will aim to encourage Nepalese university lecturers to move away from teaching via textbooks and use and critique electronic literature.

Professor Edwin van Teijlingen from Bournemouth University, and Visiting Professor at the Manmohan Memorial Institute of Health Sciences (MMIHS) in Nepal, said: "It is a combination of sensitising staff in identifying health resource information and changing attitudes towards the importance of research-based or evidence-based practice, which will ultimately have an impact on health care in the country.

"The study will start with a curriculum review of all health-related courses at the major universities in Nepal and a needs assessment with lecturers, librarians and students. These two study parts will identify gaps in knowledge and skills around gathering existing research information.

"The next phase of the study will focus on developing networks to spread the evidence of best practice as found in the first year. The third and final year will focus on the wider dissemination of the partnership findings."

Dr Padam Simkhada from the University of Aberdeen, also a Visiting Professor at Manmohan Memorial Institute of Health Sciences (MMIHS) affiliated with Purbanchal University added: "Both the University of Aberdeen and Bournemouth University have worked with academics in Nepal before and this project will help us to further support and encourage high calibre research and teaching in this country.

"The grant is part of the British Council's Development Partnerships in Higher Education (DeLPHE) programme which supports nine project grants in Asia. This is the only funded project in Nepal in this DeLPHE round."

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**Note to editors:**

- The new project 'Improving Access to Research Literature for Higher Education Institutions in Nepal' (PARI Initiative) will address gaps in learning research at Nepalese universities.
- For further DelPHE information visit: [www.britishcouncil.org/delphe-round-four-a-z.htm](http://www.britishcouncil.org/delphe-round-four-a-z.htm)

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