## PROJECT DETAILS

### Project Title
Exploring the perspectives towards hydrotherapy of families, carers, and staff who support persons with profound and multiple learning disabilities

### Project Summary
Would you like to expand your healthcare career by exploring an under-researched clinical area? Diverse Abilities (https://diverseabilities.org.uk/) are offering a fully-funded bursary award toward fees for a Bournemouth University (BU) MRes study as part of a partnership between BU and Diverse Abilities.

The successful candidate will undertake research looking at the opinions of key stakeholder groups towards the use of hydrotherapy for persons with profound and multiple learning disabilities in Dorset.

This study will be qualitative in nature, and you will work with the supervisory team at BU to collect and analyse data to support the MRes project and answer a research question related to the requirements of Diverse Abilities. Details of the MRes process can be found here: https://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/study/courses/mres-faculty-health-social-sciences

The studies will be guided by BU supervisory team where you can use data collected to complete the MRes requirement. Data collection timeframe will run from September 2019 to August 2020 in line with the academic year, with an MRes completion date of August 2020.

Although there is an existing research idea, the final research question would be decided in conjunction with the successful applicant, Diverse Abilities and the MRes supervisory team.

The project is likely to involve:
- A literature search related to this clinical area;
- Qualitative data collection with key stakeholder groups;
- Analysis of data to identify key issues related to this topic.

Knowledge of NVivo (or other qualitative software) is desirable.

Knowledge of Qualitative methodology is essential.

Experience of working with individuals with complex physical and psychological/cognitive needs is desirable.

### Academic Impact

To date, despite the widespread use of hydrotherapy in healthcare services, there is a relative dearth of peer-reviewed literature which looks at the perspectives of the key stakeholder groups. Conducting this MRes study will allow the generation of research, which will be written at a standard to be published in peer-reviewed journals and shared at a high-quality healthcare conference.

### Societal Impact

The non-academic impact from this project will be to generate data which may lead to support fundraising by Diverse Abilities. This project will lead to the generation of data which will help to shape and guide the approach
taken by Diverse Abilities towards the creation of a hydrotherapy facility in Dorset, which in turn will help to improve the wellbeing and quality of life of persons with profound and multiple learning disabilities. It is also hoped that this knowledge will be shared with the wider healthcare community to inform and shape their practice. In creating research which will be presented at respected academic conferences and published in peer-reviewed journals, it is hoped to strengthen the reputation of Diverse Abilities to potential funding donors.

Training Opportunities

In order to conduct this MRes, a high calibre candidate will be sought. An extensive advertising process will be conducted to identify an individual with expertise in Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Sports Therapy, or a related discipline. They will be expected to have a high-quality degree and some experience in (or a clear interest in) working with person with profound physical and psychological/cognitive needs. In addition, they will also be expected to have an awareness of research methodologies.

This MRes is centred upon hydrotherapy, and the potential role it may play in the wellbeing and quality of life for persons with profound and multiple learning disabilities. A key aspect of the MRes is therefore to increase the candidate’s ability in the use of qualitative methodologies to answer a defined research question. This will provide them with a valuable skill set to take forward into future positions of employment.

As part of this MRes, the successful applicant will be receive support from three experienced Bournemouth University academics. These academics will provide support and methodological input during the duration of the study. The candidate will be integrated into the University as a whole (and the Faculty of Health and Social Sciences). In addition to this, they will be enrolled in the Bournemouth University PGR Researcher Development Framework. They will also be signposted to training opportunities, both in the University and from the industry collaboration with Diverse Abilities.

SUPERVISORY TEAM

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<tr>
<th>First Supervisor</th>
<th>Dr Louise Fazakarley</th>
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<tr>
<td>Additional Supervisors</td>
<td>Dr Kathryn Collins</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Dr Osman Ahmed</td>
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Recent publications by supervisors relevant to this project


- Hancock N, **Collins KC**, Dorer C, et al. (2019) Evidence-based practice ‘on-the-go’: using ViaTherapy as a tool to enhance clinical decision
| making in upper limb rehabilitation after stroke. BMJ Open Quality (under review). |

**INFORMAL ENQUIRIES**

For informal enquiries, please contact:
- Dr Louise Fazakarley ([lfazakarley@bournemouth.ac.uk](mailto:lfazakarley@bournemouth.ac.uk))
- Dr Kathryn Collins ([kcollins@bournemouth.ac.uk](mailto:kcollins@bournemouth.ac.uk))

**ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

The MRes Scholarships are open to UK and EU students only. Candidates for an MRes Scholarship should demonstrate outstanding qualities and be motivated to complete a MRes in 12 months and must demonstrate:
- outstanding academic potential as measured by either a 1st class or upper second (2:1) honours UK bachelor’s degree or overseas equivalent
- an IELTS (Academic) score of 6.5 minimum (with a minimum 6.0 in each component) for candidates for whom English is not their first language

In addition to satisfying minimum entry criteria, BU will look closely at the qualities, skills and background of each candidate and what they can bring to their chosen research project in order to ensure successful completion.

Please note:
- Current BU MRes students cannot apply for an MRes Scholarship
- MRes Scholarships cannot be used to support BU staff to complete doctoral programmes

**Additional Eligibility:**

- In possession of (or eligible for) registration with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC);
- In possession of (or eligible for) enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check;
- Background with (or evidence of interest in) working with persons with profound and multiple learning disabilities (or similar).

**HOW TO APPLY**

Please complete the online application form by **30th June 2019**. Further information on the application process can be found at: [www.bournemouth.ac.uk/studentships](http://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/studentships)