

Centre for Adult Social Care Research (CARE)



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Canolfan Ymchwil Gofal Cymdeithasol i Oedolion

About the Organisation

The Centre for Adult Social Care (CARE) is a research centre at Cardiff University and is funded by Health and Social Care Wales. Our goal is to develop cross-cutting research into adult care in Wales, through bringing together multi-disciplinary expertise and fostering collaboration with organisations across the UK. Our research is rooted in the experience of people who receive social care services and those who provide care.

Placement Opportunity

Rather than offering a fixed role or predefined project, we are keen to work with doctoral researchers to identify areas where their expertise, interests, and development goals align with our current priorities and activities.

Examples of current research projects at the centre are:

- Carers Needs Assessments: A Mixed Methods Exploration of Social Care Practice and Outcomes for Caring Relationships
- Innovating Assistive Tech for Dementia: Understanding and Empowering Underrepresented Communities in Social Care – Wales Innovative Network
- Older men's experiences of hoarding and engagement with local authority social care services
- Positive Futures – A Study of Aging with HIV in Wales and Housing and Social Care Arrangements
- Social Care Linked Data Lab (CARE Lab)

Placements will be developed collaboratively, allowing students and hosts to explore where their interests, skills, and development objectives can contribute to meaningful organisational outcomes.

Potential Areas of Activity

Depending on the successful applicant's background and interests, projects may include:

- Literature reviews and evidence synthesis
- Qualitative or quantitative research
- Data analysis and interpretation
- Stakeholder engagement and consultation
- Knowledge exchange and impact activities
- Evaluation and learning projects
- Strategic research and insight generation
- Report writing and research communication
- Project development and planning

This list is not exhaustive, and other opportunities may be explored through discussions with the successful applicant.

Student Specification

For each placement we would expect students to have:

- Strong research skills in quantitative or qualitative research or mixed methods.
- Experience in, or an interest in adult social care, with a willingness to gain in depth knowledge of the sector
- An interest in writing for both academic and non-academic audiences E.g. through journal articles, policy briefings, practice guidance, articles for the professional press, blog posts.

Benefits of a Placement

Through this placement, students may have opportunities to:

- Apply research skills in an established research centre
- Gain insight into organisational decision-making and strategy
- Develop transferable skills and professional networks
- Explore pathways for research impact with social care organisations and practitioners
- Contribute to real-world challenges and organisational priorities

- Enhance skills in stakeholder engagement, policy, evaluation, communication, or project management
- Build experience that may support future career aspirations within or beyond academia

The successful applicant will have opportunities to meet with individuals across CARE who will provide support with their activities, such as our centre manager, public involvement officer and administrative officer. The candidate will be offered supervision on a fortnightly basis by the lead supervisor who will be determined according to the nature of the project agreed.

There will be extensive opportunities to network within the School of Spatial and Social Sciences, as well as with external stakeholders. It is an excellent opportunity for anyone interested in working collaboratively with social care leaders. Through this collaboration, the student will develop a good understanding of how to work with different stakeholders (voluntary sector, local government and academic partners) to apply academic learning to policy and practice.

Working arrangements

Location of placement: Spark Building, Maindy Road, Cardiff, CF24 4HQ.

Working hours: Full time working hours are 35 hours per week, Monday-Friday. Core hours are normally 9.00-17.00 but we are open to flexible working arrangements, in agreement with the supervisor. We are open to student completing the placement full time (3 months) or part time (6 months).

Attendance: Full-time candidates will be expected to attend the CARE office two days a week and have the option to work the remaining days at the office or at home. Candidates will be expected to attend team meetings in person on Tuesdays. No funds are available to support living in Cardiff or getting to the CARE office. Travel expenses and subsistence will be available at university rates where students are required to undertake agreed work on behalf of the centre.

How to apply

Please submit a short biography of approximately 200 words introducing yourself to:

Dr Jeremy Dixon
Deputy Director of CARE
CARE@cardiff.ac.uk

Please include:

- Your PhD research area and current stage of study

- Key skills you could offer or would like to develop (for example, qualitative research, quantitative analysis, data analysis, policy work, stakeholder engagement, evaluation, or knowledge exchange)
- Any relevant experience beyond your PhD, including in social care
- The type of work, challenge, or impact you would be interested in exploring through a placement

Please use the email subject line:

"PhD Research Placement Enquiry - CARE"

Please copy (cc) escrip@bangor.ac.uk when submitting your application