ESRC DTC Collaborative Studentship: Division of Health Sciences, Warwick Medical School, University of Warwick and University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust

Project Title: Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) and the use of self-sampling

The ESRC Doctoral Training Centre at the University of Warwick, one of 21 such centres in the UK, embodies the university’s commitment to producing the next generation of leaders in social science research. Internationally renowned for its research excellence, Warwick is now inviting applications for an ESRC Doctoral Studentship in association with our collaborative partner University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust to commence in October 2016.

This proposed collaborative research is concerned with sexually transmitted infection (STI) and the use of self-sampling (where an individual takes their own samples), where the arrangements for self-sampling and for receiving test results are made remotely via digital communication (test kit ordered via a website, samples posted to laboratory and results sent by mobile phone text to individual who undertook the self-sample). The research will explore the social dimensions of this experience. It will extend existing medical evidence to examine whether remote testing has different social impacts from standard clinic testing. For example, does the ease of access to sampling change people’s perceptions of their own candidacy for health care? Is there an impact on how people perceive and respond to risk, or indeed construct risk? How does the ease of access to testing interact with the experience and perception of stigma? The empirical research will include survey and interview research in schools and with health service users. Supervision will be jointly provided by Professor Frances Griffiths (medical sociology) Warwick Medical School and Professor Jonathan Ross (sexual health) of University Hospital Birmingham.

The successful candidate will join a vibrant and expanding research team at the University of Warwick within the Division of Health Sciences. The studentship is an exciting collaboration with University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust.

The academic supervisors will be Prof Frances Griffiths, Division of Health Sciences, Warwick Medical School and Prof Jonathan Ross, University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust.

The successful candidate will be expected to start on 3rd October 2016 and will be located at Warwick Medical School.
Our ESRC studentships cover fees and maintenance stipend (if eligible) and extensive support for research training, as well as research activity support grants. For eligibility requirements please visit http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/cross_fac/esrcdtc/studywithus/eligibility/

The closing date for applications is Friday 29th April 2016. Interviews will be held in May at the University of Warwick.

Please contact Prof Frances Griffiths for further information: F.E.Griffiths@warwick.ac.uk or 024 7652 2534.

To formally apply, please send a copy of your Curriculum Vitae (CV) and a one page personal statement at wms.rdcoord@warwick.ac.uk clearly stating the studentship you are applying for.