

# **PhD opportunities in The Scottish Improvement Science Collaborating Centre (SISCC)**

*“Creating and sharing knowledge for service improvement in the NHS”*

To be hosted at: The School of Management, University of St Andrews  
In association with the Social Dimension of Health Institute (SDHI; [www.sdhi.ac.uk](http://www.sdhi.ac.uk))  
And the Research Unit for Research Utilisation (RURU; [www.ruru.ac.uk](http://www.ruru.ac.uk))

**PhD studentship(s), entry in September 2015 or January 2016**

## **A PhD funding opportunity**

The Scottish Improvement Science Collaborating Centre (SISCC), through the School of Management at St Andrews, is seeking applications for one or more PhD studentships, with a flexible start date of either September 2015 or January 2016. One award is available immediately, and a second may become available subject to confirmation of funds. The award will cover a fee waiver for home/EU students and a (usually tax-free) stipend pegged to MRC/ESRC standard rates (currently £14,057 per annum). The award is for three years, subject to satisfactory academic progress.

## **The topic: knowledge and improvement**

The studentship will be used to explore the creation, flow and application of research-based knowledge in support of quality improvement and/or service redesign in health care. A core concern will be to examine and evaluate (formatively and, where possible, summatively) innovative models of knowledge translation and exchange and/or knowledge co-creation across service boundaries.

Of particular interest are the knowledge needs (and ways of meeting these) of health and social care managers (both clinical and non-clinical). A further interest lies in exploring the impacts of new architectures for research use and research application (such as SISCC) on meaningful service change.

The successful candidate will be encouraged to have a central role in focusing the work in areas where they have relevant research and/or clinical expertise. It is likely that fieldwork will be conducted in the Scottish NHS and (perhaps) other service partners (such as social care, or third sector agencies), but there is no prior preference for the geographical or service location of that work.

This is an excellent opportunity for an ambitious candidate with some interest in and knowledge of the challenges of research-informed change to join a world-leading set of collaborations.

## **The supportive infrastructure**

The PhD studentship will be embedded within and supported by a number of important academic units and initiatives across both the Universities of St Andrews and Dundee.

The **Scottish Improvement Science Collaborating Centre (SISCC)** is a Scotland-wide initiative to improve the quality of patient care and ensure that world-leading research leads to impact across public services and society. The Collaborating Centre aims to strengthen the evidence base for improving the quality of care; disseminate the improvement science knowledge base to practitioners, decision-makers, and the public; facilitate translation of knowledge into improvement activity, practice and policy; build engagement, capacity and

capability across a network of researchers, practitioners, policymakers, advocacy and user groups; and define new approaches to improvement methodology. We aim to have a positive impact on safety and reliability, care and compassion, reducing inequalities, and improving health and wellbeing. More details can be found here: [www.siscc.dundee.ac.uk](http://www.siscc.dundee.ac.uk)

The **School of Management** at the University of St Andrews is one of the U.K.'s leading business and management schools. We are proud of our distinctive identity as a smaller school focused on research and teaching of the highest quality. More details can be found here: <http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/management/aboutus/>

The **Social Dimensions of Health Institute** (SDHI) is a platform for broad interdisciplinary research and knowledge exchange network that spans the Universities of Dundee and St Andrews. Details of completed and ongoing work are here: [www.sdhi.ac.uk](http://www.sdhi.ac.uk).

The **Research Unit for Research Utilisation** (RURU) is a cross-university research collaboration that investigates the use of social science research in public policy and service delivery settings. Please see [www.ruru.ac.uk](http://www.ruru.ac.uk).

### **The application process**

The Ph.D. programme in the School of Management is closely tied to the School's five thematic groups (please see the website for more details on these). The current award(s) relate to the thematic group exploring Knowledge and Practice. Thus the successful candidate will join a vibrant and cutting-edge research groups with wide interests and much collaboration, within St Andrews, across the UK and internationally. Full details of the groups and associated faculty can be accessed via <http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/management/research/>.

Applicants should have a Masters' level qualification (or equivalent research experience) in a subject relevant to their proposed topic, and an undergraduate qualification at or equivalent to an upper second or better. The School welcomes applications from candidates with substantial and relevant career experience.

Applicants should provide the following documents:

- **Covering letter** stating: prior relevant experience, proposed research area; motivation for the project and the pursuit of a doctoral qualification; relevance of the proposed work to the Knowledge & Practice thematic group; and proposed start date for study.
- A short **research proposal**, outlining the ideas that the studentship would seek to explore. It is recognised that this will be tentative and exploratory at this stage (maximum of 1500 words, excluding references).
- A **piece of written work** (maximum 3,000 words). This could be a piece of work submitted for a previous qualification, or a piece created as part of the candidate's current role.
- An up-to-date **curriculum vitae**.
- Two **academic references**.

Full details of how to apply can be found here:

<http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/management/programmes/researchdegrees/apply/>

***Please complete your application by 30 June 2015***

Informal enquiries are welcome, addressed to Prof Huw Davies at [hd@st-and.ac.uk](mailto:hd@st-and.ac.uk).