

Project Title: An exploration of the diagnosis and treatment process for mental health problems and its role in the current mental health crisis

Principal Supervisor: Prof Joanna Moncrieff

Secondary Supervisor: Prof Fiona Stevenson

Department & Institution: Division of Psychiatry, University College London

Collaborative Organisation: North East London Foundation Trust

Project Description:

Applicants are invited for a funded, full-time PhD studentship based at the Division of Psychiatry UCL and North East London NHS Foundation Trust (NELFT). The post is funded for three years from October 2025. The PhD project involves researching processes of diagnosis and treatment in mental health services using ethnography and qualitative methods. It will explore potential over-medicalisation and over-treatment and the drivers of these. It will also investigate how gender and social disadvantage affect these processes. The successful student will be based primarily in the Division of Psychiatry at UCL, where academic supervision and broader skills training and career development support will be provided. The student will be supported to do an additional three-month placement in NELFT or another organisation.

Candidate Requirements:

A masters-level qualification in mental health sciences or research, or a relevant social science are essential. Knowledge of qualitative research methods is essential, and prior experience of conducting qualitative research is desirable. Excellent interpersonal skills and a demonstrable interest in research in this area are also essential requirements. The studentship could also be undertaken on a part-time basis (funded over 5 years).

Key References:

Busfield J. (2010) 'A pill for every ill': explaining the expansion in medicine use. *Soc Sci Med* 70: 934-941.
Becker T et al. (2021) Psychiatrization of Society: A Conceptual Framework and Call for Transdisciplinary Research. *Front Psychiatry* 12: 645556 3

Further details about the project may be obtained from:

If you have any queries regarding this studentship, please contact: Prof Joanna Moncrieff, Division of Psychiatry, UCL: j.moncrieff@ucl.ac.uk.
Further information about the Division of Psychiatry at UCL is available here: <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/psychiatry>. Further information about NELFT is available here: <https://www.nelft.nhs.uk/>

Deadlines and how to apply:

Apply via the Survey Monkey website:
https://ucl.smapply.io/prog/2025_student_application_co-funded_and_collaborative_studentship

Closing Date: **Monday 3 March 2025 23.59**