

Collaborative PhD scholarships in Child Health - call for research themes in Child Health

South Yorkshire Children and Young People's Health Research (SCYPHeR) is inviting applications for collaborative PhD scholarships in the area of children and young people's health research. Two PhD scholarships are available, funded by Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust, due to generous [investment](#) from The Children's Hospital Charity. This PhD opportunity has been secured by and will be supported by South Yorkshire Children and Young People's Health Research (SCYPHeR).

[SCYPHeR](#) is a joint collaboration between Sheffield Hallam University, the University of Sheffield and Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust. Our overarching vision is to address key unmet needs in child health research, through innovative collaborations between researchers, clinicians, professionals and children and their families. Advancing research on high-priority and emerging topics on child health will be able to immediately inform policy, services and practices within South Yorkshire and beyond. It will enable world-leading health and wellbeing research focused on children, by linking university researchers with specialist paediatric clinicians and allied health professionals.

Through dual-institutional PhD opportunities, SCYPHeR will nurture the next generation of child health researchers leading to increased sharing of knowledge, resources and expertise across institutions to work towards a shared goal of improving the wellbeing and everyday experiences of children and young people in community and acute health settings.

[Project proposal forms](#) should be completed by **12th December 2024**.

Background and process

The purpose of this call is to select research topics for joint UoS-SCH-SHU PhD scholarships under the strategic priority of Child Health. The topics should align with one or more of the SCYPHeR research themes:

- Rare Diseases
- Child Health Technology
- Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Child Welfare and Safeguarding
- Health Inequalities

Prospective supervisors whose research interests align with these themes are invited to submit an expression of interest (Eoi). A panel will review the Eois and agree on the projects to advertise. Proposals will be scored against the criteria listed below, and applicants will be informed of the outcome within 2 weeks.

The selected projects will be advertised through FindaPhD in **January 2025**. After applications are reviewed, candidates will then be interviewed. The supervisory team should include a clinician or allied health professional from Sheffield Children's Hospital and an optional third supervisor from Sheffield Hallam University.

About the scholarship

The scholarship is available for a student to start in October 2025, on a full-time or part-time basis, and provides the below for 3 years of full-time study (or pro rata for part-time).

- Tuition fees at home/EU levels
- Maintenance stipend at national minimum doctoral stipend rates
- £500 per year project expenses

For this call, any additional external contribution is encouraged and should be indicated on the EoI form.

Eligibility

Research themes must be in the area of Child Health, correspond with one or more of the SCYPHeR research themes, and align with UoS, SCH and The Children’s Hospital Charity’s strategic priorities.

Prospective supervisors will be expected to be able to demonstrate engagement with supervisor CPD over the past two years.

Assessment

| Category | Max. score | Min. threshold | Notes |
|---|------------|----------------|--|
| Alignment with research area and strategic priorities | 10 | 8 | Eols should clearly describe how the topic will address issues in Child Health for the benefit of the Hospital and its patients. |
| Academic quality and novelty | 20 | 16 | Eols are expected to demonstrate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● academic novelty ● a track record of high quality publications (judged to be 3* or 4*) ● potential to contribute to REF outputs ● a clear benefit to the Hospital and its patients Previous or current research in this area should also be listed. |
| Prospective supervisor and the student experience | 10 | 8 | Eols should describe the expertise and experience of the prospective supervisor, and demonstrate engagement with supervisor CPD and a commitment to good supervisory practice. |