

PhD Scholarship with Graduate Teaching Assistantship (Chiropractic)

AECC University College: AECC School of Chiropractic

The Royal College of Chiropractors and AECC University College have jointly funded a PhD scholarship with associated Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA) position and are seeking applications from outstanding doctoral candidates with clear potential to excel as academic teachers and researchers in the field of chiropractic. The PhD scholarship with GTA is a three-year fixed-term position: students undertake a PhD on a 0.8 FTE basis alongside a 0.2 FTE teaching contract. Remuneration consists of a PhD stipend of £15,539 per annum (0.8 of the standard UKRI rate), plus a salary of £5,582. In addition, PhD tuition fees will be covered.

Funding status: Competition funded project (UK students only)

Application deadline: 18 August 2024

Enquiries: Professor David Newell, dnewell@aecc.ac.uk

Application website: <https://www.aecc.ac.uk/course/research-degree-phd/>

PhD Scholarship

PhD project title: Exploring behavioural change skills to support health promotion activity in the UK chiropractic profession.

Supervisors:

Professor David Newell

Dr Alister Du Rose

Dr Humaira Khan

Background: Health promotion is vital in contemporary healthcare, focusing on proactive strategies to improve health outcomes through lifestyle changes and chronic disease prevention. It enhances individual and community well-being, reduces healthcare costs, and eases the burden on healthcare systems. Traditionally, UK chiropractic care has focused on neuromusculoskeletal disorders, but chiropractors increasingly recognize their role in health promotion.

Studies in the UK have shown that chiropractors feel responsible for health promotion and impact preventative care in key risk factors prioritised by the government. Recent research suggests that professions, such as chiropractic, can effectively encourage health behaviour changes due to their holistic approach and strong therapeutic relationships with patients.

Integrating health promotion into chiropractic practice helps with addressing broader health factors beyond immediate musculoskeletal issues, potentially reducing long-term healthcare burdens and costs. However, many chiropractic professionals lack knowledge and skills in evidence-based behavioural change approaches.

Effective health promotion in chiropractic care can leverage behavioural change theories considering various factors. Chiropractors need skills to assess readiness to change, set realistic goals, and provide ongoing support using techniques like motivational interviewing and goal setting. Integrating health promotion and behavioural change knowledge in UK chiropractic care could significantly improve patient health and disease prevention, contributing to a healthier society and sustainable healthcare system.

Aims: The project will investigate the following key issues:

- Better understanding of current practices across the profession including contemporary health behaviour change techniques.
- An exploration of current practice involving a wide cohort of stakeholders including the professional bodies and associations, educators, practitioners and patients.
- A comprehensive review of undergraduate training and postgraduate training opportunities.
- Co-creation of CPD resources for chiropractors and evaluation of educational interventions.

Methods: The project will consist of three parts: 1) a systematic review of the present knowledge and use of health promotional approaches in the chiropractic profession; 2) a survey of registered chiropractors to explore the use, knowledge, attitudes and perceptions of providing health promotion activities in the UK profession; and 3) the creation and evaluation of health promotion CPD material contextualised to chiropractic care.

Funding notes: The PhD Scholarship with GTA is open to UK Home students only. Applicants must be eligible to register as a chiropractor with the General Chiropractic Council. Decisions will be made based on the excellence of the candidate.

Keywords:

complementary medicine

health psychology

other: health promotion

other: chiropractic

Graduate Teaching Assistant

Reporting to the Head of the AECC School of Chiropractic, example duties that the GTA may undertake include:

- a) Attendance at relevant training and induction sessions.
- b) Satisfactory unit delivery including both teaching and assessment.
- c) Engagement with assessment boards and programme team meetings.
- d) Satisfactory peer observation of teaching.
- e) Positive teacher/subject/course evaluations.
- f) Develop examples of good practice adopted by others.
- g) Positive learning outcomes as evidenced by such things as retention and pass rates, student prizes and projects.

Performance:


The Scholar's performance will be carefully supported and enhanced in both research and teaching. With the appropriate guidance, support, and training, the Scholar will have the opportunity to grow and excel as a teacher. Teaching activities may be tailored to align with the Scholar's personal strengths, such as their subject knowledge. If, despite comprehensive support and training, the Scholar's teaching does not meet the required standard, the Scholar may be withdrawn from teaching duties and the Scholarship will be reviewed.

As a PhD student, the Scholar will undergo an annual review to ensure satisfactory academic progress, which will be considered separately from their performance as a GTA. Regarding PhD progression, Scholars are expected to balance their teaching responsibilities without requesting extensions or suspensions based on their teaching load. If a Scholar is not making satisfactory academic progress according to University Regulations, their Scholarship will be reviewed and could be withdrawn.

Position / Job Title:	Graduate Teaching Assistant (PhD Scholarship)
School:	Chiropractic and Clinical and Rehabilitation Services
Duration:	Fixed Term
Location:	Parkwood Campus
Normal hours per week:	0.2 FTE
Band:	C
Reports to:	Head of the AECC School of Chiropractic

Job Purpose/Summary:

- To contribute to the University College becoming a leading specialist health sciences university providing excellent education and clinical care
- To bring your emerging experience and knowledge, as suggested in the Key Responsibilities section, to the University College to help achieve our vision of becoming recognised nationally and internationally as a centre of excellence, serving Dorset and our local communities.
- To uphold the values of the University College and develop your own emerging career, aligned to our academic framework, as suggested in the Main Responsibilities section.
- To contribute to an outstanding student experience, delivering excellent graduate outcomes for all.
- To develop clinical practice in line with the expectations of the Director of Clinical and Rehabilitation services, as suggested in the Main Responsibilities section.
- To ensure the safety of our patients, clinicians and students.
- Manage their own patient caseload, providing clinical support across all aspects of the chiropractic service which is safe and fit for purpose.
- Act as a positive and influential role model and promote evidenced-based and person-centred care.

Values:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caring • Professional • Passionate • Inclusive • Collaborative

Main Responsibilities/Key Tasks for Graduate Teaching Assistant:

Values

- Uphold the five values of AECC University College at all times
- Lead others by example to contribute to an enhanced student or external stakeholder experience and patient care.

- Assist the school and services on achieving the relevant strategic aims of the University College through inspirational practice.

Education

- Demonstrate emerging evidence of educational delivery and good practice as defined in the academic framework.

This might include, for example:

- Attendance of relevant training and induction sessions.
- Satisfactory unit delivery including both teaching and assessment.
- Engagement with assessment boards and programme team meetings.
- Satisfactory peer observation of teaching.
- Positive teacher/subject/course evaluations.
- Developing examples of good practice adopted by others.
- Positive learning outcomes as evidenced by such things as retention and pass rates; student prizes and projects.

- Make an emerging contribution, both as an individual and as part of a programme/framework team, to an enhanced student experience through educational enhancement activity as defined in the academic framework.

This might include, for example:

- Innovation around student engagement.
- Example of recognised good practice.
- Individual and team-based enhancement initiatives.
- Contribution to extracurricular activity.

- Making an emerging contribution to education in your academic subject area at this level could include.

This might include, for example:

- Participation in open days and direct educational recruitment activity as appropriate.
- Student pastoral support.
- Membership of course team committees and other such working groups.

Practitioner

- Clinical

- To work as an autonomous practitioner, providing and delivering chiropractic care to your clinical caseload of patients
- To work as part of a multidisciplinary team, recognising the skills of other health care professionals and referring where necessary to provide the best overall experience for your patients.
- Proactively build the client base, ensuring appropriate retention of patients.

- Professional

- To comply with GCC Standards of practice
- To develop and maintain relationships with referral sources such as GPs, consultants and health professionals within the local community
- To communicate clearly, concisely and sensitively with patients, visitors and staff

<p>d) To maintain patient confidentiality at all times</p> <p>e) To organise your own time and prioritise workloads as required within the demands of a busy clinic</p>	
Leadership and Management	
<p>a) To act as a role model and ambassador for the clinic and University College, promoting evidence-based practice and a person-centred, interprofessional approach to care</p> <p>b) Develop and maintain excellent customer service relationships with staff and patients.</p> <p>c) Maintain CQC standards at all times, undertake departmental risk assessments, maintain plans for minimising incidents, and report appropriately.</p> <p>d) Responsible for managing and dealing with patient related safety incidents and patient complaints.</p> <p>e) Conduct and contribute to annual service performance reviews</p> <p>f) Develop and encourage staff motivation and teamwork in accordance with University College’s values and corresponding behaviours</p> <p>g) Contribute to clinical audits</p> <p>h) Undertake and be responsible for risk assessments</p> <p>i) To work closely with the Director of Clinical and Rehabilitation and Chiropractic Clinical Lead to ensure placement students receive an excellent student experience</p>	
Additional Duties	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake any other duties as assigned by the Head of School or the Director of Clinical and Rehabilitation Services including, for example, attending meetings, training events and participating in committees and working groups to which you are elected or appointed • To encourage and promote the generation of income including participation in enterprise activities such as the development of CPD provision • To actively contribute towards the institution’s clinical governance systems, taking responsibility for appropriate quality standards and working towards the continuous improvement in clinical and service quality • To demonstrate support for the University College’s commitment to equal opportunities and its Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy. • To demonstrate support for the University College’s Health and Safety Policy ensuring that it is adhered to in the post holder’s areas of responsibility. • Occasional weekend or out of hours work may be required to support specific projects e.g. Open Days. • To undertake and co-ordinate administrative duties as required by the Head of School or the Director of Clinical and Rehabilitation Services. • Maintain a personal development plan in line with agreed annual review. 	
Selection Criteria	Essential/ Desirable
Education, Training and Qualifications	
An appropriate undergraduate or pre-registration Masters qualifying degree	E
Eligibility to register as a chiropractor with the GCC	E
Skills and Knowledge	
An emerging ability to use a variety of suitable assessment techniques, in-class, online and using simulation	D

Knowledge of relevant learning and teaching practices	D
Developed communication and interpersonal skills	E
Effective team-working	E
Practiced IT skills	E
Experience of using electronic patient record systems	D
Familiarity with working as part of a multidisciplinary team within public or private healthcare settings	D
Experience	
Development of successful learning, teaching and assessment activities including lecturing, small group seminars, problem-based learning, simulation and clinical skills development	D
Emerging teaching experience in higher education	D
Experience of appropriate patient management through clinical placements	E
Personal Attributes	
Caring, Professional, Passionate, Inclusive, Collaborative	E
Excellent interpersonal skills with staff, students and external stakeholders	E
Drive and energy to deliver targets in a fast-paced environment;	E
An ability to adapt and work flexibly to meet the demands of the Strategic Plan, Fit for the Future	E
Maintain an outstanding student educational experience, be professional and reflective	E
Have a high degree of personal resilience, the ability to work under pressure and to deadlines, a flexible approach to work, reliable and an excellent attendance record, Enthusiastic and motivated team worker	E
Abilities	
Enhance the University College community and contribute to the development of the institution	E
Commitment to developing academic excellence and an outstanding student experience	E
Self-motivated, proactive and innovative	E
Embrace change and personal development	E
Other Requirements	
Professional indemnity and personal liability insurance	E

NB: The purpose of the job description is to indicate the general level of responsibility of the position. The duties may vary from time to time without changing their general character or level of responsibility.

The University College is committed to equality of opportunity and welcomes applications from everyone regardless of ethnicity, gender, age, faith or sexual orientation.