# Lothian Clinical Academic Pathways Partnership

# Clinical Academic Research Gateway Funding

# First Steps into Research Opportunities 2025

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| Institution & Department  Research Centre (if appropriate) | Edinburgh Napier University – School of Health and Social Care  Centre for Mental Health Practice, Policy and Law Research |
| Contact – name, role & email | Professor Jill Stavert, Professor of Mental Health and Capacity Law, Director of the Centre for Mental Health Practice Policy and Law Research |
| Research Project/Programme Title | Mental Health and Mental Disability Research |
| Details of Research Project / Programme – *including funder, team members, methodology, stage of implementation* | This placement is with the Centre for Mental Health Practice Policy and Law Research at Edinburgh Napier University. The centre’s members comprise an interdisciplinary team of experts in impactful and applied research relating to people with mental illness, learning disability neurodivergence, dementia and those experiencing mental distress. All Centre members are engaged in research that actively addresses real life challenges and seeks to find solutions to this across the sphere of health and social care, law enforcement and legal and other institutions. The Centre’s vision is to support the realisation of everyone’s right to enjoy the highest attainable standard of mental health across individuals’ lifespan.  Our offered expertise for this placement includes mental health and suicide research, occupational therapy and health, and the law and human rights relating to persons with mental illness, learning disability neurodivergence, dementia, and interprofessional challenges responding to people experiencing mental distress. |
| Opportunities for candidate  *e.g. attending meetings; data collection; data management; analysis; ethics application; dissemination activities*  (bullet points) | We can offer a wide range of research development opportunities to a 1st steps award participant that will enable them to see or have conversations about research processes from beginning to end, e.g., project planning (including PhD projects, multi-stakeholder and agency projects), funding application development, good clinical practice, ethics applications, data collection and analysis on a range of projects and topics. The placement will also be tailored to the specific interests and needs of the participant. |
| Any other considerations or information for potential candidates? (e.g. potential links to other projects, networking opportunities, specific skills needed) | We can we offer a valuable insight into the whole research process from a number of different perspectives in health and social care. A 1st steps award participant would also be automatically become a member of the Centre for Mental Health Practice Policy and Law Research with its extensive networks and related expertise. Such member can, if the participant wishes, continue after the placement and, indeed, we would encourage this. |
| Dates available (awards likely to be made Feb/Mar 2024 for start in Mar/Apr 2023) | Appreciating the work commitments of the participant, upon award we will agree a schedule of attendance with an assigned member of the Centre with the participant over the period of the award. |
| Mentor(s) | Professor Jill Stavert https://www.napier.ac.uk/people/jill-stavert  Professor Nadine Dougall https://www.napier.ac.uk/people/nadine-dougall  Professor Elizabeth McKay https://www.napier.ac.uk/people/elizabeth-anne-mckay  Dr Fiona Maclean https://www.napier.ac.uk/people/fiona-maclean |

Please return to Andy Peters, AHP Research & Development Facilitator, NHS Lothian [andy.peters@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:andy.peters@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk)