Title: Co-Producing complex built environment interventions to address public health inequalities

Type of award  PhD Research Studentship

Department  Civil Engineering

Scholarship  Minimum £15,285 in 2020/21 rising to £15,609 p.a. (2021/22). For eligibility and residence requirements please check the MRC.UKRI website

Duration  3 years

Eligibility  Home/EU (UK settled status) with permanent UK residency

Start Date  October 2021

PhD Topic Background/Description
This is an exciting opportunity for a doctoral student to join a large research consortium seeking to substantially improve urban health by investigating the highly interdisciplinary and complex area of urban development decision-making. This PhD will specifically focus on systems, design thinking and participatory approaches to built environment design and its impacts on public health and health inequalities.

Background
TRUUD is part of the UK Prevention Research Programme, which aims to deliver real changes that reduce the burden of these diseases and enable people to live longer, healthier lives. Many aspects of the world influence our health, from the communities in which we live, to the design of our cities and transport systems. TRUUD seeks to examine how urban development decision-making might better account of the prevention of non-communicable diseases, including mental health. TRUUD is coordinated across five universities, two local government partners, and a wide range of disciplines including: public health, policy, economics, systems engineering, real estate investment, and law. In addition, this PhD will be linked to the UK Collaboratorium for Research in Infrastructure and Cities.

Overall Aim of the PhD
To advance and evaluate systems methods for the inclusive co-production of innovative socio-technical interventions into urban development and infrastructure engineering practices intended to help address the impacts they can have on health and health inequalities.

Objectives
1. Develop, trial and appraise an innovative synthesis of design and systems thinking methods, incorporating co-production learning approaches, in support of urban interventions to enhance public health outcomes.
2. Implement and evaluate the emergent methods through case study application to co-produce quantitative systems models that enhance the understanding of the complex causal relationship between design practices, the built environment and health inequalities.
3. Test and assess the process’s support for the co-design of transformative interventions that improve public health outcomes.

**Further Particulars**

**Candidate Requirements**
Applicants must hold/achieve a minimum of a master’s degree (or international equivalent) in an engineering, urban planning or human geography related discipline with an interest in public health and health inequalities.

Applicants without a Masters qualification may be considered on an exceptional basis, provided they hold a first-class undergraduate degree. Please note, acceptance will also depend on evidence of readiness to pursue a research degree.

If English is not your first language, you need to meet this profile level:

**Profile E**
Further information about [English language requirements and profile levels](#).

**Basic skills and knowledge required.**
Knowledge of quantitative and qualitative systems approaches and tools.

**Scholarship Details**
Scholarship covers full PhD tuition fees and a **tax-free** stipend of a minimum £15,609 in 2021/22

Open to UK students who have been ordinarily resident in the UK for at least 3 years prior to the start date of their programme. Also open to EU applicants who have no restrictions on how long they can stay in the UK and have been ordinarily resident in the UK for at least 3 years prior to the start of the studentship (with some further constraint regarding residence for education).

Candidates can check the eligibility criteria for the award at [Student eligibility requirements - Skills & careers - Medical Research Council (ukri.org)](#).

**Informal enquiries**
For informal enquiries, please email Dr Neil Carhart, neil.carhart@bristol.ac.uk

For general enquiries, please email came-pgr-admissions@bristol.ac.uk

**Application Details**
To apply for this studentship, submit a PhD application using our [online application system](http://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/apply/)

Please ensure that in the Funding section you tick “I would like to be considered for a funding award from the Civil Engineering Department” and specify the title of the scholarship in the “other” box below with the name of the supervisor Dr Neil Carhart.