Centre for Sport, Health and Exercise Research
Faculty of Health Sciences
Staffordshire University, Stoke-on-Trent

PhD Studentship

Assessment of foot biomechanics in people with diabetic neuropathy: A quantitative diagnostic approach

Duration: 3 years
Tax free stipend at £14,057 per annum plus tuition fees

This 3 year Ph.D. studentship will be based at Staffordshire University, Leek Road Campus, Stoke-on-Trent. The project will involve a clinical longitudinal study in which a variety of biomechanical data from patients will be collected every 6 weeks over a period of a year. Utilising advanced statistical analyses, the efficacy of these parameters in predicting the ulceration incident in diabetic neuropathic patients will be investigated.

A combination of biomechanical measurements will be utilised as part of this studentship including the use of plantar pressure measurement systems and gait analyses tools together with the assessment of the mechanical characteristics of the foot using a special customised system developed by the clinical biomechanics team at Staffordshire University.

The successful candidate will be required as part of their studentship to engage in up to 6 hours of undergraduate teaching along with completing a Post-Graduate Certificate in Research Methods (PGcRM), and a Post-Graduate Certificate in Higher and Professional Education (PGcHPE).

General Information: The student will register initially for the award of MPhil and will be expected to transfer to Ph.D. registration within 12-15 months (subject to satisfactory progress and approval of the transfer report).

A tax-free Ph.D. stipend is available for three years at £14,057 each year. Tuition fees will be paid for EU students (non EU students will have to fund the difference between home fees and international fees). The anticipated start date is October 2015.

Applicants are expected to have:

1. At least an Upper Second Honours degree or equivalent in a related science based discipline such as: Clinical Science, Biomedical Science/Engineering, Sport and Exercise Science, Physiotherapy, Podiatry, Physical therapy and Rehabilitation or similar.
2. A PG qualification in Biomechanics will be an added advantage.
3. Candidates are expected to have some background experience in:
    a. Musculoskeletal Biomechanics. Knowledge of soft tissue mechanics is desirable.
    b. Statistics and quantitate research methods. Knowledge of advanced statistical methods is desirable.

Applications should be in the form of:

1. A covering letter outlining your interest in the position (maximum one page). For non-EU candidates there must be a clear statement explaining how you would expect to pay the difference in EU and overseas fees.
2. A C.V. (maximum two pages) including the names of two referees.

Informal enquiries and applications should be submitted via email to Dr Roozbeh Naemi by **14th September, 2015.** Interviews will be held on the week commencing the **28th September, 2015**. Applications should be sent, preferably electronically, to Roozbeh Naemi (r.naemi@staffs.ac.uk) or by post to Dr Roozbeh Naemi, Centre for Sport, Health and Exercise Research, Faculty of Health Sciences, Staffordshire University, Science Centre, Leek Road, Stoke-on-Trent, ST4 2DF, UK.