**Doctoral Training Centre in Communication Disorders**

A studentship is available as part of the newly established Doctoral Training Centre in Communication Disorders in the Speech and Language Therapy Unit at Strathclyde University. The centre is led by a cross-disciplinary team of supervisors encompassing speech and language therapy, linguistics, psychology, computer science and electrical engineering / signal processing, and projects encompass equally diverse fields whilst being firmly anchored to the study of communication disorders. You will thus be immersed in an academic environment that will allow you to develop research expertise in your own topic area whilst also becoming more aware of the potential contributions from other disciplines. In addition, you will benefit from close interaction with relevant NHS specialists who will contribute their expertise and allow you to further develop your practical clinical skills.

The studentship offers full fees as well as a stipend of approximately £14,500 for a period of 3.5 years.

**Name of studentship:** Advances in the treatment of communication and swallowing disorders

**School:** Psychological Science and Health, Speech and Language Therapy Unit

**Funded period:** Jan 2016 – Jun 2019 (3.5 years)

**Academic supervision:** relevant members of the SLT team

**Sponsor:** Nancy Maxwell Bequest & Strathclyde University

**Summary:**

A choice of projects in communication and swallowing problems is available that have been proposed by local SLTs who will be closely involved in the supervision of these projects. Whilst the clinicians have identified a general need for further research in particular areas, the exact nature of the project will be developed with the student once they have chosen their topic.

The following areas are available:

Dementia:

1. Development of effective communication support for people with dementia

Dysphagia:

1. Use of telehealth devices in nursing homes to manage dysphagia and prevent hospital admission
2. Reliability of blue dye test in detecting aspiration in tracheotomy patients
3. Measures of breathlessness as an indicator of silent aspiration

Schizophrenia:

1. Characteristics of language and communication in schizophrenia to inform assessment

Autism:

1. Differential diagnosis of autism, sensory processing or sensory integration difficulties - the SLT’s role in assessment

**Admission Criteria:**

* Qualification as a Speech and Language Therapist
* Masters, or BA/BSc at 2.1 or above
* UK or rest of EU national (the grant does NOT cover overseas fees)

**Application Process**:

1. Email the following documents, by the closing date, to hass-postgrad@strath.ac.uk:
   1. A brief review of the current literature surrounding the chosen topics, and an indication of up to three possible research questions, 1500 words max;
   2. academic qualifications; and
   3. an English language qualification (if required)
2. You must also arrange for two academic references to be emailed, to the same address, by the closing date
3. All applicants must also apply online (http://pgr.strath.ac.uk/) for a place on the PhD programme at Strathclyde.

NB: Applicants already holding doctoral qualifications should not apply

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**Graduate School contact details**:

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**Closing date**: 15 October 2015