

PhD Studentship



**UNIVERSITY OF
STIRLING**

DEPARTMENT OF
NURSING AND MIDWIFERY

PhD Studentship to explore sex ratios in Scotland linked to demographic, socio-economic, pollution and other possible factors.

Staff in the University of Stirling, with research interests in the fields of occupational and environmental health, public health and Geographical information systems (GIS), have begun to investigate what links there may be in Scotland between pollution, socio-economic factors and the ratio of male to female births. There is some evidence that globally there may be shifts in these ratios but the reasons for such changes are unclear. This studentship offers an exciting opportunity to research this subject in a Scottish context. The methods for the project will be primarily quantitative, with data being collected from routine data sources such as the General Registry Office (Scotland), Scottish Public Health Observatory Community Health Profiles, ISD (Information and Statistics Division Scotland), and Scottish Environmental Pollution Agency Scottish Pollutant Release Inventory.

This studentship will be jointly supervised by Professor Andrew Watterson, Dr Sandy Winterbottom and Dr Ruth Jepson. These staff work in the cross-departmental Occupational and Environmental Health Research group, the Improving Health Outcomes Research Programme (Department of Nursing and Midwifery) and the School of Biological and Environmental Sciences. The student will be based at the University campus in Stirling.

We are looking for a student who can demonstrate sound statistical, computer and writing skills and preferably someone with knowledge of or interest in research on pollution. The research will be multi-disciplinary in nature. The studentship may appeal to someone with a maths or statistics background, a medical geographer interested in GIS techniques, someone with a health professional or environmental science background with a master's degree in these subjects, a social scientist or someone with an MPH or epidemiology qualification. We would, however, welcome applications from suitable candidates from any discipline with the requisite skills set.

The University has a post graduate research school and the person appointed may have access to in house and external courses in statistics and GIS mapping relevant to the subject.

If you would like further information about the studentship, please contact Professor Andrew Watterson in the first instance (aew1@stir.ac.uk Tel 01786-466283).

Closing date for the applications will be 31 July 2009. We would hope the person selected could begin work as soon as possible after that date.