

2014 VISITING FELLOWSHIPS

School/Department/Research Group Expression of Interest

CONTACT INFORMATION

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PROPOSED RESEARCH AREA

School/Department/Research Group:

Sue Ryder Care Centre for the Study of Supportive, Palliative and End of Life Care
School of Health Sciences

Project Title (please limit this to one sentence. This will be published on the web site)

Ageing and care needs: addressing diversity relating to sexual orientation and gender identity

Research Area for which you would welcome applications (please keep this as broad as possible at this stage. A few paragraphs will suffice):

Ageing lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans (LGBT) people have many of the same health and social concerns as anyone else but distinct needs too. LGBT experiences of stigma, marginalisation or discrimination are acknowledged as social determinants of health which may have a significant impact on the LGBT people's health and well-being. LGBT people may face barriers when attempting to access health and social care. Due in part to negative past experiences, older LGBT people may delay or avoid seeking health and social care altogether. They may choose to withhold personal information from health and social care providers as well, because of the fear that disclosure will lead to prejudice and discrimination. In addition, LGBT people have some unique health concerns and may be at increased risk for certain health issues. Most health and social care providers are not trained on LGBT needs and may not be sensitive to the particular health risks or knowledgeable about how to work with LGBT people.

Three strands of work addressing aspects of this theme are already underway within the Sue Ryder Care Centre, with major funding from Marie Curie Cancer Care Research programme (a two year project exploring the end of life experiences and care needs of older LGBT people), Economic and Social Research Council (an ESRC seminar series: Older LGBT people – Minding the Knowledge Gaps) and the National End of Life Care Programme (a survey of care home staff exploring knowledge and work practices relating to LGBT people). This work has attracted international attention.

The visiting fellow would be involved in the early stages of a developing a further strand of this work, led by the Sue Ryder Care Centre portfolio of work. This will explore themes and develop capacity to develop and evaluate educational interventions such as the training of staff, workshops to raise mainstream awareness of LGBT communities and individuals. This work will also have wider relevance to an increasingly diverse range of family forms prevalent in contemporary societies. The Sue Ryder Care Centre has an established track record of ensuring the widest applicability of research undertaken and in knowledge transfer activities working with a wide range of policy and practice partners.

The Sue Ryder Care Centre has international recognition as a Centre of Excellence in end of life care research and education, and addresses a wider range of themes including ageing and care. This work will also overlap with interests of colleagues in other research centres in the School of Health Sciences and colleagues in other Schools such as the School of Education. There is already an established international network which has expressed an interest in developing these ideas. This is an interdisciplinary network including, among others, gerontologists, educationalists, lawyers, social scientists, health and community-based workers and activists around the world.

The visiting fellow would, with support, take a lead in collating information about existing and past projects being undertaken by members of this network and in developing an outline for an innovative new work stream which will add to our existing portfolio of work. This work will enhance and promote international collaborations and the opportunity to develop and submit international grant applications.

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The three month programme of work is designed to enable the visiting fellow to obtain insights into the organization and conduct of research, training and administration at Nottingham and help to both support existing partnerships and identify new ones. It will additionally enable the Visiting Fellow to gain experience and transferable skills to support capacity building in universities in their country of residence.

Outcomes will include:

- Assisting in organizing a workshop aimed at developing an inter-disciplinary programme of work, bringing together academics and practitioners to discuss shared but differing strands of work under an umbrella theme of educational interventions relating to the delivery of care for older LGBT people
- To visit other colleagues in other Departments or at other UK universities to find out more about ongoing research that contributes to this theme
- Exploring ways to develop international collaborations under this theme
- To produce an outline application
- To identify a research team and to identify specific funding opportunities (further work will continue beyond the three months to fully develop and submit a grant application)

Maximum number of applications that the School/Department/Research Group is willing to accept: 1 from this research group