

University College London

Name of Organisation:

University College London

Fellowship Summary

The UCL Gender and Sexuality Fellowship Programme based in the Research Department of PCPH & Division of Psychiatry will build on the success of hosting CSC Fellowships in 2024. The programme will support HCP in low- and middle-income Commonwealth countries to augment the rights, freedoms, dignity and inclusion within healthcare of communities, discriminated against because of their sexual or gender identity. Our programme offers bespoke training in LGBT+ Health and Wellbeing and Methodological Issues in Research on Sexuality and/or Gender. Fellows will receive supervision, mentorship and knowledge exchange with experts in LGBT+ health and rights in the UK and internationally. Fellows will develop detailed, evidence-based, context-sensitive plans for LGBT+ health service delivery and healthcare staff training to improve the mental & physical health of LGBT+ people in home countries. Fellows will also design service evaluations in their countries. We will offer ongoing learning, support and capacity building beyond the programme.

Weblink for Candidates

<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/epidemiology-health-care/research/pcph>

Eligibility

- 1) Healthcare professionals working in low- and middle-income Commonwealth countries in roles related to health service policy, planning or delivery (with at least five years' full-time equivalent experience)
- 2) A commitment to supporting the rights, freedoms, dignity and inclusion of communities who are discriminated against because of sexuality and/or gender identity.
- 3) Applicants with a long-term goal focused on reducing stigma for LGBT+ people, enhancing access to health services, and improving the quality of healthcare.

Proposed Fellowship Dates

17/02/2025 to 13/05/2025

Proposed Activity

Welcome, orientation

- Orientation to the programme, and to UCL, London and the UK
- Access to UCL facilities (IT, desk space, sources of support)
- Group formation - Hopes, fears, expectations
- Meetings with supervisors and UCL mentors
- Programme planning

Fellows will meet their supervisors weekly, and will meet weekly as a group to discuss progress and wellbeing.

Week 1: Planning and groundwork

- Outline plans for improving LGBT healthcare in home countries
- Tailoring of training and placements for Fellows' needs
- Focused literature search (evidence, policy documents, guidelines)

Weeks 2 to 3: LGBT Health and Wellbeing

Bespoke UCL short course delivered by academic experts and patient representatives.

- 1) History, power and politics and LGBT health globally
- 2) Mental health of LGBT people
- 3) Physical and sexual health of LGBT people
- 4) Medical treatments of sexuality
- 5) Gender identity, sexuality, and the role of health services
- 6) LGBT parenting
- 7) Supporting LGBT health service staff
- 8) Policy and organizational change

Week 4: Refining plans for LGBT healthcare initiatives –

- Fellows will explore the evidence base for LGBT healthcare, and decide which issues to focus on
- Facilitated workshops to refine plans
- Interim feedback on Fellows' experiences of the scheme

Weeks 5-6: Placements, visits, joint meetings

Placements and visits will be organised to exchange knowledge and experience, including the Royal College of Psychiatry LGBT Special Interest Group, NIHR Health Protection Unit for sexually transmitted diseases and blood-borne viruses, Relationships and Sex education programmes in secondary schools, LGBT civil rights and support groups including Gendered Intelligence, United Queerdom, Queer Newham, McPIN Foundation, Reproductive Justice Initiative, and other groups the Fellows wish to contact.

Week 7: Refining plans for LGBT healthcare initiatives

Fellows will define the detail and practicalities of their plans for LGBT healthcare initiatives, taking into account the learning from the bespoke course and visits to organisations. Advice from multidisciplinary academic teams will be available, including health economics, epidemiology, public health, primary care, implementation science and social science disciplines.

Weeks 8 and 9 Methodological issues in research with populations marginalised by gender or sexuality (bespoke course)

Fellows will have access to learning materials from the UCL Gender, Sexuality and Sexual Health module, the Masters in Public Health, and Academic Writing Skills.

This course will cover:

- Conceptualising sexuality and gender variance
- Sampling stigmatised populations
- Inclusive data collection
- Data collection concerning 'sensitive' topics
- Privilege, power and positionality in research
- Patient involvement and participatory research
- Power, politics, history and 'decoloniality' in research
- Rapid evaluation methods

Week 10: Joint meeting with other CSC Gender and Sexuality Fellows to discuss plans for LGBT healthcare initiatives. Fellows will also be invited to present to academics and other stakeholders at UCL and beyond.

Week 11: Individually tailored placements: e.g. clinical, charitable sector and academic placements.

Week 12: Final plans for healthcare initiatives: Detailed plans for LGBT sensitive health service delivery, staff training programmes, and service evaluations in Fellows' home countries.

Programme conclusion

- Reflections and feedback
- Consolidating collaborations and next steps