The Induction Academy

The Division of Health Research begins each new academic year with the Induction Academy. This milestone of the programmes is your opportunity to really begin your time with us in the best possible way. The Induction Academy lets you meet the academics, get to grips with the technology we use, gives you guidance on literature searching and introduces you to academic writing. But perhaps the most important benefit of the Induction Academy is the way it introduces you to your new peers. Time and again, when we ask our postgraduate students studying within the Division of Health Research what they value most, they tell us that it’s their network of fellow Lancaster students.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Division of Health Research at this year’s Induction Academy, which takes place between the 19 - 23 September both in-person and online.

The five days of the Induction Academy are an intensive introduction to your programme and the Division. Among other topics, we guide you through:

+ Familiarising yourself with the IT (guided through everything you need to get started by our IT specialist support team)
+ Effective literature searching and academic writing
+ Critical appraisal and evidence synthesis
+ Methods in quantitative and qualitative data analysis
+ Research Ethics
+ Skills to become an effective learner

I have learnt so much throughout the week, met so many new students and staff and finished with a good understanding of what is required from the programme.

One of the many benefits of our programmes being taught at a distance is the range of people we are able to teach. They come from all over the world, able to continue in their jobs because our part-time programmes fit around existing commitments.

Last year we had people from over 20 countries join us for the Induction Academy.

A map of all the countries students joined us from in 2021
Our Research

At Lancaster’s Division of Health Research, we are proud to be doing research that has real-world impacts, with our work contributing to improved health and wellbeing around the world. To give you an idea of the world changing work happening in the faculty at the moment, below are some of the projects our current postgraduate students are doing. We hope these stories inspire you and encourage you on your way to becoming part of our community.

The work of Charlotte Appleton (PhD in Statistics and Epidemiology) is detects outbreaks within domestic animals using veterinary data. In January 2020, Charlotte discovered an outbreak of diarrhoea and vomiting and dogs, which was later determined to be Canine Enteric Coronavirus.

She says “further work for my PhD is to look into the data spatially to assess the spread of any illnesses (if any) and to produce any work to keep the stakeholders and veterinary surgeries informed down to their local authority areas.”

Over the last decade, virtual reality (VR) has gained more interest and acceptance as an innovative technology intervention in a wide range of health settings for older adults. Research has demonstrated the benefits of VR use by older adults including improved mood, memory and cognition.

However, the effects of VR use on emotional and social wellbeing (including issues of loneliness and social isolation, which have potentially been worsened by the pandemic) are unknown.

This is the question that PhD student Sangeetha Babu seeks to answer with their research. Sangeetha’s research explores the potential impact of immersive VR on the wellbeing of older adults living in their own homes, supported living or in long-term care.

A research group comprised of Professor Nancy Preston, Professor Catherine Walshe, Bader Remawi (a third year PhD student from the Medical School) and Dr Naveen Salins (a PhD student from the Division of Health Research) in India, have been working to develop palliative care in intensive care (ICU).

Professor Nancy Preston explained: “when we got the grant from the Global Challenge Research Fund we hadn’t anticipated the huge wave of COVID-19 about to hit India. Initially they thought they would need to cancel the project as they were working closely with doctors in the ICU, which were becoming overwhelmed. However, the doctors were keen to continue the project and we met weekly to develop a protocol to improve the end of life care of these patients which will be implemented later in the year.”

Discover more about the world changing research happening at the Division of Health Research on our website.
Our People

“Working with the calibre of academics we get to work with at DHR is mentally stimulating and at times challenging (in a good way). This is the perfect combination to keep students engaged through the PhD journey. They are also always there to offer support. Most students on the programme have a busy schedule with work and family responsibilities, so the flexible approach offered by the team of academics is invaluable.”

- PhD Health Economics and Policy student Facundo Herrera

Professor of Health Economics and Admissions Tutor for MSc Health Economics and Policy and PhD Health Economics and Policy.

Céu supervises MSc and PhD students, previous project topics include: economics evaluation, food safety, mental health and willingness to pay for human enhancement.

Céu holds a PhD in Public Health and Health Economics from the National School of Public Health, Nova University of Lisbon in Portugal, an MSc in European Social Policy Analysis from Bath University in the UK, and graduated in Economics from ISEG – Lisbon School of Economics and Management, Lisbon University in Portugal.

Céu has over 25 years of experience in research and has developed her expertise around economic evaluation of health technologies and interventions, efficiency measurement, equity, ageing and quality of life.

Alongside her role at Lancaster, Céu is one of the experts in the Appraisals Committee of Infarmed, the Portuguese National Authority of Medicines and Health Products. She has been involved in several scientific associations in the field of health care such as PCSI, EuHEA and the Portuguese Chapter of ISPOR. She is the current President of the Portuguese Health Economics Association.
Hi Facundo, please tell us about yourself.

I got my first degree in Economics from the University of Cordoba in Argentina and then did an MA in European Economics Studies at the College of Europe in Bruges, Belgium, which lead me to work in the evaluation of public policies in the consultancy sector. I have been researching education, employment and digital policy for the last 7 years, applying quantitative methods.

I work as a senior economist with a strong focus on applied econometric to the evaluation of public policy, mainly in the areas of education, skills, employment, social inclusion, children and families. I am also very interested in exploring health inequities from a quantitative intersectional perspective, that is, how the intersections of race and gender, for example, can impact health outcomes.

What did you hope to get from the PhD?

I hope to be able to apply innovative methods within a policy-relevant topic and, to the possible extent, contribute to the debate on health inequities.

What is it really like doing a PhD at Lancaster’s Division of Health Research?

I feel very supported by my peers and academics, working very collaboratively.

Despite each student having different research topics and interests, we have the chance to share our preliminary thoughts and receive constructive feedback.

It’s a very stimulating learning environment and I think we become more active compared to the classic teaching and learning experience in which students tend to be passive receivers of notions and content.