

Paid opportunity to join Mental Health Science PhD Thesis Committee

Hi, I'm Tom, I'm a PhD student at UCL researching adolescent mental health. I am particularly interested in how social and societal factors impact the risk of developing mental health problems, and how this may change between different countries.



Poverty, inequality, and young people's mental health across different countries

Millions of children and adolescents worldwide live in poverty, and this increases their risk of future mental health problems. Both poverty and mental health problems can negatively influence education, social connectedness, and future mental health. Poverty is likely to influence young people's education and mental health differently depending on the country where they live, given cultural and national differences in young people's everyday lives, access to healthcare and social support.

This project will investigate whether the impact of poverty on adolescent mental health and future outcomes differs in different countries and will aim to identify what policies in specific countries may help prevent mental health problems for children and adolescents in poverty. The project's main focus will be on analysing existing data from large national studies of children and adolescents in countries such as the UK, Australia, Ethiopia, Peru, Vietnam and India.

I'm keen to recruit one or two young people aged 16 to 25 with lived experience of mental health problems, to join my Thesis Committee meetings (online) and contribute to all stages of this study.

Thesis Committee – Roles and Responsibilities

Thesis Committees at UCL provide oversight of a PhD student's research. For Students on the UCL-Wellcome PhD Programme in Mental Health Science, the Thesis Committee includes researchers with expertise in different mental health themes, a mental health practitioner and individuals with lived experience of mental illness.

The role of the Thesis Committee is to support the student and their supervisor during the 3-year PhD project and to advise and help contribute to the direction of the project. You will be asked to attend a minimum of six meetings organised by the student. At these meetings, the student will deliver an oral presentation, and in some cases will produce a report to be read in advance. Please see the table below for information on timetable and format of the meetings.

The committee members have the following responsibilities:

- Meet with the student at the designated times (six to ten times) throughout the progress of the PhD. Note that additional meetings may be arranged on an ad hoc basis.
- Read Student reports prior to the Thesis Committee meeting (including an Upgrade report which is a formal report to show that the research to date matches the standards of a PhD.
- Approve the meeting reports that will be entered into the student's online Research Log.
- If required, provide additional support for the student e.g. additional Thesis Committee meetings outside of those scheduled to monitor progress.

Meeting	Time post start of Phd Project	Format
1. Research Proposal	3 months	Student Research Proposal (~1,000 words) and oral presentation
2. 9 months Report	9 months	9 months report (~1,000 words) and student presentation
3. MPhil-PhD Upgrade Report	9-18 months	Upgrade report (~10,000 words) and viva
4. Progress meeting	18 months	Student presentation
5. Progress meeting	24 months	Student presentation
6. Thesis outline and writing plan	30 months	Written thesis outline, writing plan and student presentation

Payment of £25/hour is available for Lived Experienced Thesis Committee members. This will typically include 1hr preparation time for the meetings.

How to apply

If you are interested in joining my Thesis Committee please send an e-mail with a paragraph or two explaining why you are interested and what you would like to bring to the Thesis Committee to **t.steare@ucl.ac.uk** by 31st January 2022, at the latest.

Please let me know if you would like an informal chat about the Thesis Committee, have any questions or if there is anything that we can do to make this opportunity easier for you to apply for.