**SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES**

**PhD RESEARCH PROJECT**

A competitive PhD studentship application process is now open: **submission deadline 27 May 2016**. The three-year PhD studentship provides **£16K per year (tax-free)**, with all fees for PhD registration paid and research costs up to £1K (total). (Non EU students would have to subsidise the relevant fees.)

**Start date:** 1 October 2016

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| **Proposed by:** | | **1st supervisor** | **2nd supervisor** |
|  | | Professor Gary Morgan  [G.Morgan@city.ac.uk](mailto:G.Morgan@city.ac.uk) | tbc |
| **Research Centre** | | Centre for Language and Communication Science Research | Centre for Language and Communication Science Research |
| **Project Title** | | **Psycho-social Outcomes of early**  **cochlear implant** | |
| **Brief Description** | For about twenty-five years profoundly deaf children have been provided with cochlear implants (CI) (CI) that significantly improve their possibility of acquiring a spoken language. This has radically changed the way deaf children are rehabilitated and integrated into society in the UK and other countries. The technology has improved continuously and children have been implanted at ever younger ages. Combined with increasing experience with rehabilitation, this has led to astonishing results as witnessed by many studies of the children’s language abilities and social well-being (Percy-Smith et al. 2008). However, there remains a lot of variability in how well children with CI develop speech, language, and associated cognitive abilities, either because of individual children’s inability to profit fully from the technology, or because the children are less immersed in linguistic interaction with others than typically hearing children in spite of the CI.  This study will be a UK wide investigation of a large group of early implanted children (during first 12 months) aged 2-5 years (n=300) with collaboration from CI centres in London, Nottingham and Manchester. Morgan has excellent connections with clinicians at these centres. The student will work with CI teams to pool measures of spoken language (vocabulary and parent interaction), health (sensory-motor and neurological milestones) and psycho-social development (non-verbal IQ and Theory of Mind). CI teams as part of their service take these measures routinely anyway. Data will be collected at 3 time-points (6 months apart = 18 months). Research questions will use regression and mediation analysis (Baron & Kenny, 1986) to identify predictive variables for CI outcomes.  References  Baron, R.M., & Kenny, D.A. (1986). The moderator–mediator variable distinction in social psychological research: Conceptual, strategic, and statistical considerations. Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 51(6), 1173.  Percy-Smith, L., Jensen, J. H., Cayé-Thomasen, P., Thomsen, P., Gudman, M., & Lopez, A. G. (2008). Factors that affect the social well-being of children with cochlear implants. Cochlear Implants International, 9(4), 199-214. | | |
| **Recommended Skills / Prior Learning** | | 1. Psychology degree  2. Some experience with evaluating young children  3. Some experience of CI | |

All [application forms](http://www.city.ac.uk/courses/research-degrees/research-degrees-at-the-school-of-health-sciences#course-detail=3) should be submitted by email to the doctoral degrees support officer, Tracy Rowson ([SHSPHDStudentships2016@city.ac.uk](mailto:SHSPHDStudentships2016@city.ac.uk)). To apply for studentship funding, please include a short cover letter with your application and research proposal (based on the topic described above) and submit with your completed application form by 27 May 2016.

City University London is a global university committed to academic excellence with a focus on business and the professions and an enviable central London location. The University is in the top five per cent of universities in the world according to the *Times Higher Education World University Rankings* and attracts around 19,500 students (35% at postgraduate level) from 150 countries. It is well above the sector average for graduate employability in most of its subjects, is in the top ten in the UK for starting salaries and is the top university in London for student satisfaction. City joins the University of London federation in 2016.

In the recent Research Excellence Framework, City made a greater improvement in research quality, per Funding Council research pound, than any other UK university. 40% of its total academic staff are producing research that is world-leading or internationally excellent.