



## THE ROSAMUND SNOW SCHOLARSHIP FOR PATIENT-LED RESEARCH

### Background:

Rosamund Snow, who died in February 2017, had type 1 diabetes. After completing a Master's degree in Social Sciences at King's College London, she went on to study for a PhD in the patient experience of diabetes. She became a respected academic at the University of Oxford, undertaking research and teaching medical students about the importance of the patient perspective. She believed passionately in patients working alongside clinicians to produce research and teaching that is informed by the (often under-valued) expertise in *what it is like to live with an illness*. She used her own expertise from experience to question and challenge norms of medical practice, always striving to improve patient care. After her death, Rosamund's family generously donated funding to Green Templeton College at the University of Oxford, to allow others to be trained to continue the work she started.

The successful applicant will be supported to undertake Masters-level training in the relevant research methods if necessary, before developing their own ideas into a PhD (a three-year, full-time or six-year, part-time programme of study, known at Oxford as a DPhil).

There is a great deal of flexibility in the kind of research we can support. We are looking for someone with a good idea and the passion and commitment to see it through. For her PhD, Rosamund undertook a qualitative study of group education programmes for diabetes. As training for that work, she first completed a Master's degree in social sciences. We are open to similar or contrasting ideas from potential candidates, and we will work with the successful scholar to help shape their idea into an achievable PhD-level study with an appropriate package of training. The sort of study areas we might support include (but are not limited to):

- The patient or carer experience of illness
- The unequal power dynamics of the clinical consultation
- The challenges of advocacy (speaking out and campaigning about a condition)
- The politics of self-management
- Language and jargon
- Co-producing research

We are aware that the 'right' person for this scholarship may not have a conventional academic background to undertake advanced research in the social sciences. Apart from fulfilling the University of Oxford's minimum criteria for admission to research degrees, we are open to accepting individuals who have pursued a different academic direction previously. There may be flexibility so that a potential candidate is supported to pursue their proposed research via the most effective route or combination of courses offered at Oxford and relevant to this scholarship.

## **Application process:**

Candidates should apply by the [University's January deadline](#) relevant to their programme. Further information available [here](#).

Candidates who wish to be considered for the Rosamund Snow Scholarship should indicate this on their application and provide an additional side of A4 to outline how their projected research fits with the aims of this scholarship.

Candidates should first meet the admission requirements of the relevant programme leading to an offer of a place at Oxford University.

Once all applications for the relevant programmes have been assessed by the academic department, candidates for the Rosamund Snow Scholarship may be invited for interview at Green Templeton College. Candidates for the scholarship will be selected on the basis of academic potential and the quality and relevance of their proposed research, considered against the stated aims of the award.

A Rosamund Snow Scholar funded to undertake an MSc course would not automatically progress to a DPhil with full funding. Candidates who wish to progress to a DPhil would apply to the programme and submit an application for the Rosamund Snow Scholarship at the same time, following the process outlined above.

Some discretionary funds may be available to support reasonable adjustments so that candidates can engage successfully with their programme. This will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

If you think you might be interested and would like to run an idea by us first, you are welcome to send an informal enquiry outlining your background, your idea and any other relevant information to: [admissions@qtc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@qtc.ox.ac.uk)

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## **Further information:**

We are working in partnership with two organisations, who would be keen to work collaboratively with the successful person to support and shape their research idea:

- [Care Opinion](#), a non-profit organisation dedicated to collecting and using patient experience stories to improve services, and which has a searchable database of over 240,000 stories which could potentially form a data resource for further research.
- The [British Medical Journal](#), which has introduced a radical new model of patient involvement in medical publishing. Patients now co produce content, help define editorial priorities, review submitted papers, and write articles about patient experience, and patient leadership in healthcare. The successful applicant would have the opportunity to be involved with the BMJ's patient partnership work and /or play a part in the ongoing evaluation of the impact of its work.