



## Department of Health and Social Care - Strategy Unit

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC)'s Strategy Unit is currently 6 months in to a new initiative for bringing external insights and expertise into the policy work of the department. 'Collaborate' is taking an innovative, Open Policy Making approach to bring together the voices of clinicians, academics, patients and policymakers during six month 'semesters' on relevant themes.

The first theme for Collaborate has been Behavioural Sciences. We have been using the Collaborate model, combined with support from a UCL behavioural scientist, to help the department harness insights from behavioural sciences to shape the work we do. This has taken the form of large scale workshops, 1:1 consultancy 'surgeries', and longer term strategic project design and input. Following the success of this, the focus for this new policy placement will be twofold. Firstly they will continue to build an audience for behavioural sciences in the department, spotting opportunities and shaping thinking. They will take specific responsibility for the co-design and delivery of behavioural sciences events and suggest mechanisms for embedding behavioural science across the work of the department. More specifically however, we are now moving to Phase 2 of the BSci theme, where we would like to develop a set of theories of improvement for the health and social care system. This will also involve elements of complex systems thinking and mapping. From this, there are likely to be one or two bespoke projects which we would like the placement to take a lead role in designing and shaping.

We're looking for an enthusiastic PhD or post-doctoral student, with a background in behavioural sciences research and/or theories of improvement and systems thinking, preferably in a healthcare setting, to be placed with us for between 4 and 6 months on a part time basis. There will be an opportunity for the placement to work across the department, with multiple policy teams and our arm's length bodies to deliver the goals of Collaborate, and for them to bring their research to the attention of policy makers.

### Skills required

- research background in behavioural sciences
- experience of working in a health context
- or in applying behavioural science in a public services context

### Desirable Skills required

- Ability to develop theories of change/improvement
- Experience of work around systems thinking

### Funding

UCL has funding available through the HEIF Knowledge Exchange Fund to support research staff and students who would be interested in undertaking a placement, subject to eligibility and certain conditions. Placement funding is not confirmed in advance, and must be applied for through a competitive process once the candidate for the placement has been chosen. For more information on placement funding please contact Katherine Welch.

**Location**

The placement will be hosted at the Department of Health offices in Whitehall

**Duration**

The placement is for 3 day/week initially for 6 months, starting in July.

**Eligibility**

Policy placements are open to registered UCL staff and PhD students. Students who are successfully awarded a placement would generally be expected to interrupt their studentship for the duration of the post and will be funded by the placement award during this time. Candidates must be in a position to return to UCL for a period of six months following the placement to be eligible to apply.

To apply please email Katherine Welch with a cover letter explaining your suitability for the placement (max 1 page) and short CV.