

Samantha Nightingale - Midwife/ Pre-Doctoral Bridging Programme Student



I am a nurse and midwife with over 30 years' experience but started on my clinical academic journey in 2016, when I began a secondment to Coventry University as a Midwife research assistant in the Centre for Innovative Research across the Life course. I worked as part of a team undertaking a qualitative evaluation of a maternity health app supporting antenatal and postnatal care.

As I developed in my research role, I successfully applied for the NIHR/HEE funded Master's by research (MRes) programme. I

completed the MRes, while continuing in my research role secondment alongside clinical work. It was a challenging programme involving completion of a clinical portfolio which developed an in-depth knowledge and experience of the different aspects of clinical research.

My research project was a systematic review of national and international literature, looking at pregnancy outcomes, and maternity care experiences for women who have experienced human trafficking. I have successfully completed the course and aim to take this research further.

I was awarded the Wellbeing of Women entry level research scholarship 2019, with a grant of just over £17,000. The grant will fund an evaluation of women's understanding and information needs of induction of labour. This evaluation will be used to develop an information film with a professional film maker which women will be able to view to better prepare them for the process of induction of labour.

I have just successfully applied for the West Midlands Pre-Doctoral Bridging Programme which will enable me to complete with support and supervision a competitive fellowship application. The aim of the fellowship application would be to continue to doctorate level study, and to continue the development of my clinical academic career.

The development of the clinical academic role is crucial to the development of research to. Support from the UHCW Interdisciplinary Clinical Academic Health Research Excellence (i-CAhRE) programme has helped the development of my clinical academic career.

