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|  | **Faculty or Natural Science, Psychology** |

MSc HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY FUNDED BURSARY 2025-26

Digital Health and Care Innovation Centre

Digital Health and Care Institute is a national institution who seek to stimulate, inspire and develop the use of digital technology to enable, empower and support health and care. The use of technology in health and care can help to shift the model of treatment towards a person-centred approach where the individual is a key person in the management of their own health. Digital and health care innovations can be employed in prevention, detection and management of care by health and care professionals and by individuals. DHI are again offering scholarships to support the development of new talent in the digital health and care field.

The Faculty of Natural Sciences, Psychology is applying for these DHI scholarship bursaries for students starting the MSc in Health Psychology in September 2025.

Student Eligibility

In order to be considered for the bursary

* You must be a British citizen, **OR** an EU citizen with Settled Status, **OR** hold indefinite leave to remain status
* You must have been resident in the UK for at least the last three years (proof will be required)
* You must be an ordinary resident in Scotland when starting the course
* You must have applied for the MSc Health Psychology programme (or be in the process of applying). **If you hold a conditional offer, you are still eligible to apply for the bursary.**
* You must supply two references, one of which must be an academic reference in support of this application.
* You must be starting the course this academic year, but you may apply as a part-time student in the first year of a new course.

## Selection:

Applicants will be ranked by a Departmental Committee according to academic merit, and their personal statement. Names will be submitted to DHI for final selection and approval.

Student Commitment

If you are accepted as a bursary student by both the University of Stirling and the DHI, you must undertake the required digital health project.

You will also be expected to attend two additional days organised by the DHI and on the second will be expected to present your project.

University of Stirling’s commitment to you

We will be selecting students to put forward to the DHI bursary scholarship programme. You may be accepted by the University of Stirling MSc Psychology programme; however, this does not confer automatic acceptance by DHI. Successful applications to DHI will depend on the number of applications they receive from interested Scottish Universities. If these are oversubscribed, our bursary numbers will be capped. If your application is rejected by the DHI, we would welcome you to study the MSc Health Psychology at Stirling and you may continue to study the research topic you had applied for. You will be under no obligation to proceed however without the bursary.

Description and Value of Bursary

The bursary is funded by the Digital Health and Care Institute. The successful applicant will be required to work on the selected theme for the research project part of their course. The bursary will pay £8030 towards MSc Health Psychology course fees and the university will waive the remaining £1,470.00 pounds of fees, meaning that you do not need to pay any tuition fee. You would, however, need to be able to cover your own living costs for the period of study.

Submission Deadline

Students wishing to be considered should complete and return the attached bursary application form by   
**05. August 2025**. Late applications will only be considered in exceptional circumstances.

Please forward bursary applications to:

Mrs Nicola Hunt (Learning and Teaching Co-ordinator)

Psychology, School of Natural Sciences

University of Stirling

Stirling FK9 4LA

E-mail: [nicola.hunt@stir.ac.uk](about:blank)

Tel: 01786 466258

### CLOSING DATE FOR BURSARY APPLICATIONS IS 05. August 2025

**Project Outlines:**

The following are projects that indicate examples of the types of digital health/health psychology projects that you will be undertaking this year.

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|  | DHI Theme | Prospective projects |
| 1 | The contribution of digital health and care to Scotland’s Net Zero targets | *Exploring health psychology and digital health in reaching hard to reach groups.* |
| 2 | How digital solutions can best support mental health and well-being |  |
| 3 | Supported living in the community (e.g. SMART housing, smart communities) | *Use of technology to support breathing retraining: incorporating what we have learned about the use of digital avatars in clinical settings into home based use to support breathing retraining.* |
| 4 | Measuring the impact of digital health & care projects |  |
| 5 | Citizen empowerment and long-term condition management |  |
| 6 | Healthy Ageing | *Exploring health care and individual user perceptions including barriers and facilitators, of digital technology use to maximise brain health behaviour change* |
| 7 | Digital solutions as an enabler in shifting care from institutional settings into the home and/ or community settings (e.g. Hospital @ Home) | *The use of technology to improve pre-surgery preparation thereby improve post-surgical outcomes (eg pain experience, recovery time, anxiety post-surgery) to reduce post surgical care in hospital* |
| 8 | Digital solutions in supporting Population/Public Health early intervention and/or Emergency Planning/Prevention, |  |
| 9 | Digital skills and workforce development in health and social care | *Exploring the opportunities and acceptability of digital technology to support MAP informed discussions as part of 3rd sector health conversations.* |

The DHI centre is especially interested in proposals that incorporate aspects of AI, machine learning, predictive analytics, data, Internet of (Medical) Things, Virtual Reality, Augmented Reality, and/or Immersive Reality.

For your application we would ask you to draft a short research proposal. The proposal should address the following research question: (You should note that this is NOT a research proposal for the project you will complete during your MSc year but is a standard task used only for the application process.

How can (select one: AI, machine learning, predictive analytics, data, Internet of (Medical) Things, Virtual Reality, Augmented Reality, and/or Immersive Reality) support people with long term conditions to better manage their illnesses and improve health and wellbeing outcomes?

(you can be as specific as you want – choosing to narrow down on a specific long term condition and a specific type of digital technology as well as a specific type of outcome).

**Please complete the application form on which:**

1. You will write a short synopsis of a research proposal based on the research question above. This is simply for the application and is not binding for your future research project.

You should provide a short background of the topic area, citing two previous pieces of relevant research.

You will also provide a very brief indication of the method you would think appropriate to use and how you think the data could be analysed.

1. Submit two references, one of which must be an academic referee.
2. Demonstrate that you have a place on the programme or are applying and meet the MSc Health Psychology programme requirement.
3. Confirm the following: You must be a British citizen, **OR** an EU citizen with Settled Status, **OR** hold indefinite leave to remain status
   * You must have been resident in the UK for at least the last three years (proof will be required)
   * You must be an ordinary resident in Scotland when starting the course
4. Agree that your project must fall within the parameters of DHI project topics and will be negotiated with the MSc Health Psychology Digital Health Coordinator

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**MSc HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY BURSARY APPLICATION FORM 2025-26**

**Digital Health and Care Institute**

To apply, please complete and return this form by **05. August 2025** to the email address below**.**

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| Name |  |
| Date of Birth |  |
| Address |  |
| e-Mail |  |
| Telephone Number |  |
| Have you been resident in the UK for 3 years prior to the start of the programme and are either a British national or have EU settled status |  |
| Have you received an offer of a place for the MSc Health Psychology programme? |  |
| What Degree do you hold? |  |
| If you hold a degree in Psychology, is it accredited by the British Psychological Society? |  |
| Degree Classification |  |
| Confirm the following:   * You must be a British citizen, **OR** an EU citizen with Settled Status, **OR** hold indefinite leave to remain status * You must have been resident in the UK for at least the last three years (proof will be required) * You must be an ordinary resident in Scotland when starting the course |  |
|  |  |
| **Project Proposal: 600 words maximum (for outline and method)** | |
| **Research Question**: How can (**select one:** AI, machine learning, predictive analytics, data, Internet of (Medical) Things, Virtual Reality, Augmented Reality, and/or Immersive Reality) support people with long term conditions to better manage their illnesses and improve health and wellbeing outcomes?  (you can be as specific as you want – choosing to narrow down on a specific long term condition and a specific type of digital technology as well as a specific type of outcome). | |
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| **Background Outline:** | |
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| **Indicative method: Please indicate what your research question might be, the method you will take and the way you would analyse your data. Be realistic – this will be a short project and you don’t need to change the world!** | |
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Please provide a short personal statement (no more than 250 words) in support of your bursary application.

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**NOTE: Please submit two references one of which must be an academic reference along with this application**

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| **Signed** |  | **Date** |  |

**Return Address** Mrs Nicola Hunt (Learning and Teaching Co-ordinator)

Psychology, School of Natural Sciences

University of Stirling

Stirling

FK9 4LA

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