Dissertation Topics and Supervisors 2021-2022

The following topics are available (**staff member**/topic):

Dr Lisha Agarwal (3 positions) – *All positions filled*

I am particularly interested in supervising research in education or health economics with significant empirical content. Some broadly defined examples are

1. Peer effects and its impact on long term labor market outcomes
2. Understanding the determinants of gender gap in attainment and skills
3. Mental health and wellbeing of higher education graduates

While I encourage students to come up with their own research question in these broadly defined areas, I am happy to discuss other topics about applied microeconomics

Prof Richard Agenor (3 positions) – *2 positions filled*

1. Lebanon's Financial Crisis: The Curse of Fixed Exchange Rates?

2. Capital Flows and Monetary Policy Trade-offs: Theory and Application to Turkey.

3. Covid-19 and the Gender Gap in Labour Force Participation: Evidence for Middle-Income Countries and Policy Responses.

Prof Martyn Andrews (3 positions) – *1 position filled*

Any topic that analyses micro-econometric data. Ideally, students should identify their research question beforehand and know which data they can use to answer the question.

Dr Prasenjit Banerjee – *All positions filled*

Field: Environmental/Resource Economics; Experimental Economics; Applied Microeconomics; Development Economics

Topic 1: Effect of educational disruptions due to COVID-19 on educational outcome and aspiration of unprivileged students

- Method: Survey (data available)

Topic 2: Do cooperative people care more about the environment? Evidence from rural India

- Method: Survey (available)

Topic 3: Effect of environmental education on pro-environmental behaviour among high school students

- Method: Experiment/survey (partially available) and new survey/incentivised survey can be conducted

Topic 4: Gender/ethnicity/culture and fairness and cooperative norms
- Method: Incentivised survey

Topic 5: An incentive contract design when firms and consumers have green preferences
- Method: Theory

Dr Ralf Becker (3 positions) MSc Financial Economics students only - *All positions filled*

I am supervising topics in

- volatility and covariance modelling and forecasting or more generally financial econometrics
- electricity price modelling and forecasting and more generally topics relating to energy economics

I am also happy to talk about other topics with significant empirical content.

Dr Michele Berardi (3 positions) *2 positions filled*

I'm interested in supervising work in the area of macroeconomics and finance, with specific focus on: i) the impact of expectations on macroeconomic outcomes and/or their relevance for policy implementation; ii) the role of information and beliefs in financial markets; iii) theoretical models of expectations formation with imperfect/noisy heterogeneous information.

I encourage students to come up with their own dissertation topic, within these broadly defined areas.

I'm particularly interested in supervising work with a strong theoretical component, conducted with analytical tools and/or simulations. For reference, students can have a look at my research work: https://sites.google.com/site/micheleberardi/research

Dr George Bratsiotis - *All positions filled*

- Monetary Policy and Business Cycles during conventional and non-conventional times
- Credit Market Imperfections, Financial Intermediation and Macroeconomic Policy
- New Keynesian Dynamic Stochastic General Equilibrium (DSGE) Models
- Macroprudential Policy and Regulation in Macro Models.
- Reserves, interest on reserves.

Dr Shomak Chakrabarti (3 positions) MSc Financial Economics students only – *1 position filled*

I work on game theoretic models and their applications in economic decision making. My broad interests lie in understanding how social networks and interactions affect the spread of information, objects and diseases. I'd be happy to supervise the following topics:

1. Incorporating economic agents in epidemiological models like SIR and SIER to understand how epidemics spread.
2. Using game theoretic tools to study how firms can utilise network effects
3. Any application or survey in game theory and mechanism design

Dr Abhishek Chakravarty (1 position) – *Position filled*

Dr. Ron Chan - *All positions filled*

1. Air pollution and labour market outcomes.
2. Water pollution and water stress.
3. Studying the impact of policy uncertainty using financial data.

Mohammad Dehghani (6 positions) MSc Financial Economics students only –*All positions filled*

I am PhD candidate in finance at Alliance Manchester Business School and close to be Dr. Mohammad Dehghani! I encourage students with an interest around the areas of **empirical finance** and assert pricing, **empirical macroeconomics** and business cycles, monetary policy and other topics that is related to the time series econometrics.

Regarding the research topics, I am willing to supervise the following topics. If you consider any other research topics within the above areas or want to amend/change these topics, you are more than welcomed.

1. Financial markets asymmetric return distribution and asymmetric volatility: Leverage effect and volatility effect.

2. Financial markets persistent and asymmetric volatility clustering.

3. Speculative bubble in asset prices, particularly stock markets and cryptocurrencies.

4. Flash crashes (steep fall in a stock prices at a higher frequency).

5. Stock market crash (steep fall in the stock market at a lower frequency).

6. Testing random walk hypothesis and efficient market hypothesis (Does market incorporates all of the available information?).

7. CAPM with constant coefficient or time-varying coefficients.

8. Forecasting trend and cycle output for the U.S., the U.K., or other economies.

9. Quantity theory of money, zero lower bound, conventional and unconventional monetary policy before and after COVID-19.

10. Asset prices, inflation, quantity and velocity of money.

Regarding the methodology, you may apply one or some methods to address the research question(s). I am familiar with these methods: Linear models (e.g., Regression), ARCH and GARCH models, correlation models, Vector Auto Regressive (VAR), Principal Component Analysis (PCA) and factor models, structural break tests, random walk tests, asymmetric random walk, Markov Switching, state-space models and trend cycle decomposition, Value at Risk (VaR), event study, difference in difference regression.

Finally, I expect that you know/have:

1. Basic econometrics background. Your motivation to learn new methods is important.

2. Basic programming skills (MATLAB, R, Python). You can learn one of them since they are not difficult.

3. How to review the literature in order to specify one or two research questions. Develop a suitable econometrics model, run it and report/interpret the empirical results. Of course, I will guide you to develop the model.

If you are interested, email me (Mohammad.dehghani@manchester.ac.uk) and please have a look at my university page, student theses section:

https://www.research.manchester.ac.uk/portal/mohammad.dehghani.html.

David Delacretaz (3 positions) – *2 positions filled*

- Game Theory
- Industrial Organisation
- Auction Theory
- Matching Theory

Dr. Indranil Dutta (3 positions) –*All positions filled*

My interests lies in poverty, inequality, conflict and corruption.

Dr Omer Edhan Idan (3 positions)

I am willing to supervise work lying in the intersection of evolutionary game theory and economics as well as on some aspects of markets with indivisible goods. I can offer several projects, including for example:

1. Evolution of Homophily.
2. Evolutionary foundation of economic geography.
3. The evolution of strcutural change.
4. Computing competitive equilibria for markets with indivisibles and budgets.
5. Markets with indivisible substitutes and complementarities.

Nevertheless, you can also offer a project of your own within this framework.

Please note that I'm an economic theorist - if you're interested in "applied" research, I may not be your best option.

Nahid Farnaz (2 positions) – *All positions filled*

i) financial development and income inequality/poverty
ii) microfinance/microcredit
iii) human capital flight (currently supervising a PPE dissertation on this topic)

Dr Jasmin Fliegner (3 positions) – *2 positions filled*

- Topics in the Econometrics of Program Evaluation (applied and theory).
- *Note: In Program Evaluation, one is typically interested in estimating the effect of a program or treatment on a set of outcomes.*
- Survey of recent developments in the Differences-in-Differences literature with an application

Dr Emran Haque (2 positions) – *1 position filled*

Human capital and growth: theoretical and empirical
Human capital, Governance (Corruption) and Growth/Development: theoretical and empirical
Composition of Government expenditure and productivity growth
Empirical growth analysis – using dynamic panel models

Dr Katsushi Imai – *Position filled*

Development Economics; Applied Micro Econometrics; Poverty and Inequality; Health and Nutrition; Impact Evaluations of Public Policies

Dr Alessia Isopi - *Position filled*

Foreign Aid, Economics of the Household, Asymmetric information.

Dr Agnes Kovacs (3 positions) MSc Financial Economics students only – *All positions filled*

Rishita Mehra (3 positions)

Dr Paul Middleditch (2 positions)

Air pollution and macroeconomic time series: What information can we extract from more recently available time series such as for air pollution? For instance, does air pollution contain

information about economic activity such as the level or growth of gross domestic product in the United Kingdom. An empirical investigation will draw on various econometric techniques to investigate the possibility that pollution could provide a high frequency proxy for gross domestic product, see Hanna and Garcia (2008) for a similar application using a spline regression and Mexican data for help with your research proposal. It is anticipated that the project will have a strong econometrics component.

Constructing long run measures of economic activity: The recent financial crisis has brought a revived interest and a search for new policy instruments with which to conduct demand management, or output smoothing. One such way to measure the success or otherwise of these instruments is through the construction and analysis of long run economic variables such as the natural rate of unemployment and output. This area of research will include the use of modern empirical methodologies such as the Kalman filter and recent causality testing. The student will hope to successfully construct their own long run measures of economic activity and utilise them in tests on standard macroeconomic theory, see Staiger, Stock and Watson (1996) and Harvey (1990) for assistance with your research proposal. It is anticipated that the project will have a very strong econometrics component.

References:
Harvey, A. C., 1990. Forecasting, structural time series models and the Kalman filter. Cambridge University Press.
Staiger, D., Stock, J. H., Watson, M. W., Mar. 1996. How Precise are Estimates of the Natural Rate of Unemployment? NBER Working Papers 5477, National Bureau of Economic Research, Inc. http://ideas.repec.org/p/nbr/nberwo/5477.html

Structural breaks and unit roots: evidence from macroeconomic time series: Evidence of unit roots in real output time series have compelled many to question the validity of traditional theories of economic fluctuations. The student will test the consistency of this result after allowing for structural breaks in key macroeconomic time series it is possible to reverse the result of Nelson and Plosser (1982) who have found evidence in favour of the unit root hypothesis for 13 out of 14 economic aggregates for the United States and Perron (1989) who follows from this. It is anticipated that the project will have a strong econometrics component.

Dr Aruni Mitra – *All positions filled*

1. Macroeconomics - Business Cycles, Economic Growth, Firm Dynamics
2. Labour Economics - Migration, Minimum Wage, Technological Change, Informal Labour Markets in Developing Countries
3. Household Finance - Intergenerational Mobility, Consumption Analysis, Intra-household Bargaining

Dr Manuel Mosquera Tarrio (3 positions) – *2 positions filled*

My dissertation topics are monetary economics, inflation dynamics, and the role and formation of expectations.

Dr Kyriakos Neanidis (3 positions) – 2 *positions filled*

Topics on applied economic development/growth.

Prof Antonio Nicolo (3 positions) – *1 position filled*

1. Gender composition in committees
Committee quotas have been introduced during the last years for combatting the underrepresentation of women in male-stereotyped environments. However, the unclear effect of evaluators' gender and the gender differences in group dynamics in mixed-gender committees question the effectiveness of the policy. This thesis aims to study the recent and developing experimental literature on the effect of gender composition in committees

2. Corruption and political extremism
The thesis aims to analyze, both theoretically and empirically the relation between corruption and political extremism, especially in developing countries.

3. Local public good provision and attitude towards immigrants
The aim of thesis is to analyze whether a decrease in the quality of some local public services may have induced more xenophobic attitude

Rob O'Neill (3 positions) MSc Financial Economics students only - *2 positions filled*

- volatility modelling
- forecasts and forecast evaluation
- inflation measurement and modelling.

Dr Olayinka Oyekola - *All positions filled.*

Dr Nuno Palma (3 positions) - *2 positions filled*

- What is modern economic growth and what caused it? answer with respect to specific case-studies
- What are institutions and how do they affect economies? answer with respect to specific case-studies

Dr Simon Peters (3 positions) MSc Financial Economics students only – *1 position filled*

1. Review, with comparative empirical application, of data analysis software that is not commonly used for econometric/statistical analysis (e.g. Python machine learning libraries).

Difficulties:
*) you need to be able to physically use the software, so licensing could be an issue if its neither open source or available at the University;

!) recommend that you purchase a student version of any software you intend to use
*) you need an applied problem for a comparator;
*) the data for the comparator must be readily available.
Skill set:
*) ability to work with new software tools;
*) knowledge of econometric/statistical modeling.

2. As above, but reviewing new features/addins of commonly used software (e.g. the lassoo in Stata 16 or R).
Difficulties:
*) this may require using/investigating models and methodologies beyond those taught.
!) recommend that you purchase a student version of any software you intend to use
*) you need an applied problem for a comparator;
*) the data for the comparator must be readily available.
Skill set:
*) ability to work with software tools;
*) knowledge of econometric/statistical modeling and theory.

3. As 2, but use of the "gets" package in R for macroeconomic/finance model selection.

4. A methodological version of 2/3. How useful is the article by Jorda(2005) "Estimation and Inference of Impulse Responses by Local Projections",American Economic Review, 95 (1): 161-182, for macroeconomic/finance applied work?

Dr Mario Pezzino (2 positions) – *1 position filled*

1) Oligopoly models with managerial firms and social responsibility
2) Theoretical models of competition and incentives in health care markets
3) Theoretical aspects of the economics of education

Valeriya Potapova (6 positions) MSc Financial Economics students only – *4 positions filled*

Any topic in Behavioural Economics, Behavioural Finance, Game Theory or Portfolio theory

Dr Alejandro Saporoti (3 positions)

1. payoff-discontinuous games,
2. strategy-proof mechanism,
3. single-crossing preference domains,
4. better-reply-secure games.

Prof Klaus Schenk-Hoppe – MSc Financial Economics students only – *<u>All positions filled</u>*

Mean-variance portfolio theory in practice -
Hedging under transaction costs
Long-term investment returns

Cryptocurrencies
Open topic (topic in financial economics suggested by student)

Dr Arthur Sinko (6 positions) MSc Financial Economics students only - *4 positions filled*

Dr Alexander Squires (3 positions) – *2 positions filled*

- Any applied topics related to charitable giving/public goods & other regarding preferences
- Applied topics related to measuring Income Inequality, and the broader microeconomic consequences of inequality.

Dr Matheus Vianna – *All positions filled*

- Interest Rates and Monetary Policy
- Fiscal Multipliers and Fiscal Policy
- Financial Crises
- Economic Growth
- Business Cycles
- Heterodox Theories (Post-Keynesian, Kaleckian, Neo-Schumpeterian)
- Agent-based Modelling
- Stock-Flow Consistent Modelling

Dr Mazhar Waseem - *Position filled*

My topic is “tax compliance”.

Prof Ada Wossink - *Position filled*

I view environmental economics as based on *two mainstays*: (a) the natural sciences including operational research and statistics, and (b) the social sciences, *i.e*. ,the theory of human behaviour. The two mainstays are strongly intertwined in environmental issues; we need to understand and question where does nature leave off and society begin. I pick what I know to be important environmental and policy problems and then think what I can do about it as an economist.

It is this *problem-solving perspective* that characterizes my work more than a fixed set of econometric or statistical methods. Economics and econometrics has a huge array of tools that can be brought to bear on environmental problems and I find it exciting to explore and exploit this. More methodologically I have spent time thinking about how the two mainstays described above can be best combined in environmental economics research and how this depends on the environmental issue at stake. In this context I am interested in behavioural and perception oriented issues.

I have supervised and co-supervised to completion 13 PhD students (in Europe, USA and the UK) and publish extensively with my students.

Interested students may want to consult some of my recent research papers. Please see: https://www.research.manchester.ac.uk/portal/ada.wossink.html and then click the publications tab.

Email: ada.wossink@manchester.ac.uk.

Dr Horst Zank (3 positions) – *All positions filled*

1. Decision Theory: foundations or applications of disappointment aversion models
2. Decision Theory: foundations or applications of prospect theory
3. Decision Theory: foundations or applications of min-max expected utility under ambiguity
4. Behavioural economic: literature reviews on selected topics of interest

Dr Yichen Zhu (6 positions) MSc Financial Economics students only –*All positions filled*

1. World Price Transmission/Co-movement in commodity Prices

(e.g. Examination of the relationship between US and Canadian wheat prices)

- Aims
  a. A fundamental issue when analysing trade policy reform in global commodity markets is the extent to which domestic commodity markets in developing countries respond to changes in international prices.
  b. Providing insights as to how changes in one market are transmitted to another reflecting the extent of market integration as well as the extent to which markets function efficiently.
  c. This perception is argued to be common among traders who justify the increase in the price of one commodity because the price of other commodities have increased.

- Possible research methods
  a. Vector autoregression (VAR)
  b. Unit roots
  c. Cointegration
  d. Granger causality tests
  e. Correlation analysis

- References
  Ghoshray, A., 2007. An examination of the relationship between US and Canadian durum wheat prices. *Canadian Journal of Agricultural Economics/Revue canadienne d'agroeconomie*, *55*(1), pp.49-62.

  Baffes, J., 1991. Some further evidence on the law of one price: The law of one price still holds. *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, *73*(4), pp.1264-1273.

  Mundlak, Y. and Larson, D.F., 1992. On the transmission of world agricultural prices. *The World bank economic review*, *6*(3), pp.399-422.

Anderson, K. and Nelgen, S., 2012. Trade barrier volatility and agricultural price stabilization. *World Development*, *40*(1), pp.36-48.

Minot, N., 2010. *Transmission of world food price changes to markets in Sub-Saharan Africa*. Washington: International Food Policy Research Institute.

2. Interest rate (or mortgage rate) and house prices

Interest rates can significantly affect the cost of financing and mortgage rates, which in turn affects property-level costs and thus influences values.

- Aims
  a. This issues is argued to be common among investors who justify the changes in the house prices because the movements in interest rate (or mortage rate).
  b. Identify the causal relationship between housing price changes and interest rates.

- Possible research methods
  a. Basic regression model (e.g. OLS)
  b. Unit roots
  c. Cointegration
  d. Granger causality tests
  e. Correlation analysis
  f. GARCH models
  g. structural vector autoregression (SVAR) model

- References

Tse, C.B., Rodgers, T. and Niklewski, J., 2014. The 2007 financial crisis and the UK residential housing market: Did the relationship between interest rates and house prices change?. *Economic Modelling*, *37*, pp.518-530.

Reichert, A.K., 1990. The impact of interest rates, income, and employment upon regional housing prices. *The Journal of Real Estate Finance and Economics*, *3*(4), pp.373-391.

Harris, J.C., 1989. The effect of real rates of interest on housing prices. *The Journal of Real Estate Finance and Economics*, *2*(1), pp.47-60.

Yun Joe Wong, T., Man Eddie Hui, C. and Seabrooke, W., 2003. The impact of interest rates upon housing prices: an empirical study of Hong Kong's market. *Property Management*, *21*(2), pp.153-170.

3. Testing long-run (cointegration) relationship between international stock prices

- Aims
  Is there a link between international stock prices

- Possible research methods
  a. Unit root test
  b. Vector autoregression (VAR)

c. Cointegration
d. Granger causality tests

- References

Ahlgren, N. and Antell, J., 2002. Testing for cointegration between international stock prices. *Applied Financial Economics*, *12*(12), pp.851-861.

Liu, X., Song, H. and Romilly, P., 1997. Are Chinese stock markets efficient? A cointegration and causality analysis. Applied Economics Letters, 4(8), pp.511-515.

Pascual, A.G., 2003. Assessing European stock markets (co) integration. *Economics Letters*, *78*(2), pp.197-203.

Health Topics

Understanding the contribution of general practice activity on GDP growth – *Position filled*
Supervisors: Dr Rachel Meacock (Senior Lecturer in Health Economics) and Prof Matt Sutton (Professor of Health Economics)
Contact: rachel.meacock@manchester.ac.uk

The health sector makes a significant contribution to changes in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) over time. In October 2021, for example, health and social work was the main contributor to growth in the UK's services output, with this largely driven by an increase in GP appointments [1]. Despite this substantial contribution to overall GDP, little is known about the drivers of GP activity. You will use newly available data on activity and usage of GP appointments to examine the drivers of this important contributor to overall economic growth. The appointments in general practice data is available monthly, and contains information about the healthcare professional seen as well as the mode of appointment delivery. You will use micro-econometric techniques and panel data to estimate the impact of population, financial and organisational influences on levels of GP activity.

References
[1]
https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/grossdomesticproductgdp/bulletins/gdpmonthlyestimateuk/october2021

Evaluating the impact of health and social care devolution in Greater Manchester during the COVID pandemic – *Position filled*

Supervisor: Dr Philip Britteon, Dr Yiu Shing Lau, Alfariany Fatimah (Health Organisation, Policy and Economics, The University of Manchester)
Contact: philip.britteon@manchester.ac.uk

In April 2016, Greater Manchester became the first region to be granted devolved health and social care powers. This dissertation will seek to understand whether the devolution of health and social care powers in Greater Manchester helped or hindered the region's response to the COVID

pandemic. In particular, the dissertation will use policy evaluation methods to estimate the long-term impact of the reform on measures of access to primary care services. These outcomes will be derived from publicly available datasets.

The dissertation will also aim to explore how standard policy evaluation methods are likely to be limited when estimating the effect of an intervention during the COVID pandemic. To mitigate these biases, the thesis will utilise alternative econometric techniques to identify an appropriate control group, based on characteristics associated with transmission, virulence, and the ability to comply with movement restrictions.

The dissertation is suitable for students with a good understanding of applied micro-econometrics.

Regional disparities in the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on the provision of community care

Supervisors: Dr Yiu-Shing Lau, Dr Philip Britteon and Alfariany Fatima (Health Organisation, Policy and Economics, The University of Manchester)

Contact: Yiu-Shing Lau (yiu-shing.lau@manchester.ac.uk)

Moving care away from hospitals and into the community has been an aim of NHS England over the past 5 years. It is assumed that the quality of care for an individual treated within the community will be better, and less costly than care provided in a hospital. The recent COVID-19 pandemic has been shown to affect both appointments in General Practice and hospital activity. However, research on care delivered within the community has remained under researched.

This dissertation will seek to answer whether the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the provision of Community care, and whether this effect is different across different regions within England. Data from the Community Statistics Data Set, which captures all publically funded community care activity in England, will be used at a Primary Care Network level. This allows the use of a rich set of variables capturing population characteristics including area level deprivation. Quasi experimental micro-econometric techniques in the absence of a control group then be utilised to gain a deeper understanding of the differences in community health care provision between regions of England.

This dissertation would be suitable for a student with a good understanding of applied micro-econometrics.

Boosting collaborative arrangements in general practice: evidence from the development of Primary Care Networks in England

Supervisor: Marcello Morciano

Contact: Marcello.morciano@manchester.ac.uk

Background: Challenged by increasing demand, financial pressures, supply shortage and dissatisfaction, health and care services in England are under threat. Proposed solutions, in England as well in other countries, are around 'place'-based initiatives: for example by

incentivizing collaborations of General Practitioners (GP) and community services to work at scale to care for the local communities they serve.

From July 2019, all patients in England are covered by newly-formed Primary Care Networks (PCNs). PCNs are technically voluntary networks, mainly composed by GP practices, expected to work collaboratively to meet the health needs of a population (between 30 to 50 thousand patients), financially incentivised to expand the number and type of staff employed.

This project builds upon a quantitative study (see ref below) on the formation of PCN by measuring between- and within- variation in the number and list-size population covered by their constituent GP practices. You will review 'place'-based initiatives in other countries. You will have access to data that would allow to assess whether observed PCNs configurations are associated with exogenous area-level characteristics and pre-existing forms of GP collaborations and ventures.

Requirements: Excellent understanding of quantitative techniques; Attendance of courses in econometrics and health economics; Good critical thinking and ability to identify and synthesise methods and findings used in related context and other countries.

Reference:

Morciano, M., Checkland, K., Hammond, J., Lau, Y.S. and Sutton, M., 2020. Variability in size and characteristics of primary care networks in England: observational study. British Journal of General Practice, 70(701), pp.e899-e905.

Does turnover of General Practitioners lead to more emergency hospital care?

Supervisors: Dr Beth Parkinson and Prof Matt Sutton.

Labour turnover has been shown to reduce firm productivity in several industries. The turnover of General Practitioners (GPs) may be particularly disruptive, as practices tend to only have small numbers of GPs. This may impact the care of patients registered at the practice because there may be fewer appointments available and because the continuity of the relationship between doctors and patients is disrupted. Patients may then seek care elsewhere as a result. Whilst many factors influence the demand for emergency care, it is often suggested that avoidable use is symptomatic of sub-optimal care in general practice.

This dissertation will aim to examine whether GPs leaving and/or joining practices is associated with changes in the number of avoidable emergency department attendances and emergency hospitalisations from patients registered to those practices. It will use nationwide data on GP registers which contain information on the 7,000 practices in which the 40,000 GPs worked and the dates they joined and left each practice over a five-year period. The outcome data will be

derived from Hospital Episode Statistics, an administrative dataset containing information on care received by patients from all hospitals in England. You will use a range of micro-econometric methods, including event study analysis, to relate GP turnover to avoidable emergency care.

Exploring the effectiveness of provider incentives on participant retention in the NHS Diabetes Prevention Programme
Supervisors: Emma McManus, Prof Matt Sutton (Health Organisation, Policy and Economics, The University of Manchester)
Contact: emma.mcmanus@manchester.ac.uk

The NHS Diabetes Prevention Programme is a nine-month course that seeks to change the lifestyles of people at high risk of developing Type 2 Diabetes. The programme is paid for by the NHS but delivered by private sector agencies. In the first framework of the programme, providers were paid on the basis of individuals achieving certain programme milestones. In the second framework, providers were paid additional money for retaining more participants from black and minority ethnic backgrounds, as well as for participants meeting certain weight reduction targets.

This dissertation will seek to explore the effect of these financial incentives on provider retention of participants and programme outcomes.

To do this, the student will use participant data collected from the providers of the DPP, containing information on all participants referred to the programme across the two frameworks.

This dissertation would be suitable for a student with a good understanding of applied micro-econometrics and an interest in a research career. The student will also be supported in writing up the work for publication in a peer-reviewed journal.

Inequalities in the use of health care services – *Position filled*
Supervisors: Dr William Whittaker (Senior Lecturer in Health Economics)
(William.Whittaker@manchester.ac.uk)

The dissertation will use data from the 2014 wave of the Health Survey for England to evaluate whether there are inequalities in health and in the use of health care services across protected characteristics (particularly ethnicity and sexual orientation). Methodology is anticipated to include multivariable regression analyses and to consider the non-linearity and type of measurement of the dependent variables of health and of use of health care. The dissertation topic is suitable for students with a good understanding of applied micro-econometrics.