



Call for Expressions of Interest

PhD opportunities in health research with older adults

We are inviting expressions of interest from motivated candidates to undertake a PhD as part of a major research study funded by an international funding agency. The study aims to improve the medical management and overall wellbeing of older adults with cardiometabolic and mental health comorbidities in Sri Lanka through innovative, low-cost, scalable community-based interventions.

PhD Opportunities

Two PhD places are available, focusing on different aspects of the project.

One will require mainly qualitative research skills and may contribute to components involving:

- **Qualitative & implementation research in primary healthcare settings**
- **Community engagement and participatory research approaches**

The other will require mainly quantitative research skills and may contribute to components involving:

- **Clinical trial of a multi-component management strategy**
- **Effectiveness and/or delivery of community-based mental health interventions**

Overall, the project may focus on one or more of these areas.

Host Institutions

PhD students shall be enrolled at the University of Kelaniya. Supervision will be provided by an international team of senior investigators from the University of Kelaniya, University of Sri Jayawardenepura, Duke-NUS (Singapore) and University of Bristol (UK).

Eligibility

- Master's degree (or equivalent research training) in medicine, public health, epidemiology, social science (sociology, anthropology, psychology), or a related field.
- Strong interest in primary care, public health, cardiovascular disease, and/or clinical/implementation research.
- Excellent communication and analytical skills.
- Evidence of published work

Support

- Tuition fees and stipend will be covered by the study funds for **4 years** from the commencement date.

How to Apply

Interested candidates should submit an expression of interest including:

1. **A one-page cover letter describing research interests and motivation.**
2. **Curriculum vitae.**
3. **Contact details of two academic referees, and at least one recommendation letter.**

Shortlisted candidates will be invited for interview in the second week of June 2026. Successful candidates will need to take up their place by 01.08.2026.

Deadline for EOI submission: 31 May 2026

Submit to:

Prof Asita de Silva
Senior Professor of Pharmacology
University of Kelaniya

Email: asita@kln.ac.lk

Commented [KT1]: I would give some indication of when the PhD would start, what the appointment process will be (e.g. individuals short-listed will be invited for interview) and whether the PhD could be done on a part-time basis.