

**2 PhD Studentships in Parapsychology:  
*Phenomenological study of neophyte practitioners developing mental mediumship  
and Clients' experiences of mental mediumship***

**£12,000 per annum and tuition fees for 4 years.**

Applications are invited for two fully-funded PhD Studentships to undertake research in the area of the psychology of mental mediumship. These studentships will commence on October 1, 2019 and the successful candidates will be based within the Centre for Psychology & Social Sciences (CP&SS) at The University of Northampton, Northampton, UK and will be supervised by Prof Chris Roe.

Parapsychology is concerned with "the scientific study of experiences which, if they are as they seem to be, are in principle outside the realm of human capabilities as presently conceived by conventional scientists". Despite the scientific mainstream remaining sceptical concerning their ontology, the general public consistently report high levels of belief that 'paranormal' phenomena are real and frequently claim to have had personal experience of them. It is the task of parapsychology to account for those beliefs and experiences by thoroughly documenting their occurrence and constructing explanations that are amenable to testing under controlled conditions. One subject of particular interest to parapsychologists is ostensible evidence for the survival of personality after bodily death, as reported for example in cases of mental mediumship. The current project, funded by the Salvia Foundation, Geneva, is part of an effort to better understand the phenomenology and processes of mental mediumship from complementary perspectives by employing a mixed methods approach that combines qualitative and quantitative data. It is expected that the successful candidates will work as part of the Exceptional Experiences and Consciousness Studies Research Group that sits within the CP&SS.

Candidates should have

- A master's degree or a first- or upper second-class honours degree or equivalent in Psychology or a related field.
- Strong verbal and written communication skills.
- The ability to carry out research tasks independently and as part of a team.
- The ability to travel to partner sites and academic events in the UK and elsewhere.

Familiarity with research methods and findings in parapsychology is highly desirable.

The post is open to both UK and EU applicants. Evidence of English Language proficiency (IELTS 7 overall, with no less than 6.5 in any element, or equivalent) is required if your first language is not English.

Each studentship will cover tuition fees and a tax-free stipend of £12,000 per annum, and includes an additional research expense budget to support equipment and conference travels.

You will work at the University of Northampton's new Waterside Campus along the River Nene. The University of Northampton has a well-established development programme run by its Graduate School. This programme covers research methodologies and softer skills such as academic writing and presentation skills. Within each of the university's faculties, a further programme of more discipline-specific events is also offered. The University also promotes continuing professional development (CPD) and provides access to development for staff at all levels. Successful candidates will have the opportunity to gain experience of teaching in HE at standard rates of payment.

**Deadline for applications:** 30 August 2019

**Interviews:** Week commencing 9 September 2019

**Start date:** 1 October 2019

**Mandatory induction:** 21 – 23 October 2019

**Informal enquiries:** Prof Chris Roe and / or Dr Glenn Hitchman [chris.roe@northampton.ac.uk](mailto:chris.roe@northampton.ac.uk)  
[Glenn.hitchman@northampton.ac.uk](mailto:Glenn.hitchman@northampton.ac.uk)

**[Apply online using the keyword STU19007](#)** (Academic Year 2019 – 2020)

Applicants are not required to prepare a separate research proposal but should use their personal statement to indicate how their previous qualifications and experience make them suitable for the post.