

PhD Opportunities

The Department of Psychology at Royal Holloway, University of London invites applications for PhD studentship for the academic year 2012-13.

The Department of Psychology was ranked 7th in the UK in the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) and was ranked 4th overall in the Guardian league tables. The department has over thirty members of academic staff and some 25 post-graduate research (PhD) students. We offer a vibrant research community and excellent facilities including a research designated functional imaging unit. The department is part of The South East Doctoral Training Centre which unites the Universities of Kent, Reading, Royal Holloway and Surrey in providing outstanding postgraduate training in the M25 region through ESRC funding.

In addition to ESRC funding, a number of funding opportunities exist including College studentships. These provide a stipend and also cover the tuition fees for UK and EU students. Overseas applicants are also welcome to apply but would be required to pay the OS tuition fees. There may be opportunities to compete for scholarships to cover part of these fees. We encourage applications from students with good undergraduate degrees in Psychology, or related disciplines to contact potential supervisors via e-mail before submitting a full application. Further details regarding supervisors' research interests along with suggested PhD topics, and details of the application process, are described on our web site:

<http://www.rhul.ac.uk/psychology/prospectivestudents/postgraduateresearch/home.aspx>.

In addition, we invite outstanding applications for four specific areas of research:

1. PhD project: Supporting families of people in low awareness states

Applications are invited for a PhD studentship on a research programme on families of people in low awareness states. The successful applicant will conduct an independent piece of research under the supervision of Dr. Afsane Riazi (RHUL) and Dr Sal Connolly (Royal Hospital for Neuro-disability). This PhD project will aim to identify the psychological needs of families of people in low awareness states, and test the feasibility of a brief psychological intervention to improve their psychological well-being. There will be two phases to this project. In the first phase, qualitative research methods will be used to identify specific issues of importance to families of people in low awareness states. The results of this phase of the study will then feed into the design of the evaluation of the psychological intervention, which will be the second phase of this project.

The successful applicant will hold, or should expect to complete, a first class undergraduate degree in psychology. A distinction at MSc level would be an additional advantage but is not a necessary requirement. The successful applicant will have some

experience or understanding of qualitative research skills and the evaluation of psychological interventions. A keen interest in working with patients and their families, and excellent communication and organisational skills are essential.

Informal enquiries may be made to Dr. Afsane Riazi. Further details on how to apply can also be requested from Dr. Riazi at Afsane.Riazi@rhul.ac.uk or call 0044 1784 443601.

2. Marco Cinnirella is interested in supervising projects on: Social-Psychological aspects of national identity; prejudice (especially Islamophobia); self concept and identity in online environments. Informal enquiries can be made to Dr Cinnirella on (0)1784 443531, or m.cinnirella@rhul.ac.uk.

3. Cognitive Development in Infancy or Early Childhood

The Royal Holloway Baby Lab invites applications for a PhD studentship on cognitive development in infancy or early childhood under the supervision of Dr Jeanne Shinskey. Recent projects have focused on the development of infants' physical knowledge, particularly how interactions among cognition, perception, and action affect mental representations of objects. Other projects have focused on infants' and toddlers' ability to learn from pictures, and on preschoolers' numerical abilities. Applications are welcome on these and related topics on cognition in typically-developing infants and young children. The Baby Lab houses a database of research participants, as well as testing equipment to support the applicant's research, including video observation hardware and software. The Baby Lab is also a member of the department's broader research group on Adult and Child Cognition. Informal enquiries can be made to Jeanne Shinskey (0)1784 443520 or Jeanne.shinskey@rhul.ac.uk.

The closing date for all applications is the **10th February 2012**.