

25 March 2011

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in applying for a research studentship in the Department of Educational Studies. In the pages below we include the following:

- i. Information about the Department and the bursary scheme
- ii. Conditions of offer
- iii. Guidelines for writing a research proposal

Please also note that:

- i. Details of MPhil/PhD (Education) programme are available on the Educational Studies web page at www.goldsmiths.ac.uk/educational-studies and programme booklet at www.gold.ac.uk/booklets/
- ii. Application forms for MPhil/PhD may be downloaded from www.gold.ac.uk/media/goldsmiths-postgrad-research-pack.pdf

If you wish to apply then please complete the MPhil/PhD application form and send it together with your research proposal and a covering letter stating that this is for the Department of Educational Studies Research Bursary. You are advised to look carefully at the guidelines before submitting your research proposal and ensure that these have been followed.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to make a short presentation of their proposed research towards the end of May to a group of academic staff from the Department's Postgraduate Committee.

Applications should reach the Admissions Office, Goldsmiths, University of London, New Cross, London SE14 6NW by **5th May 2011**.

Alternatively, you can apply online at <http://www.gold.ac.uk/apply/apply-online/> This should also be submitted by 5th May 2011 and covering letter e-mailed to m.felix@gold.ac.uk

References need not be included at this stage, but appointments will be subject to positive referees' reports.

We look forward to receiving your application.

Yours faithfully



Dr John Jessel

Head of Programme, MPhil/PhD (Education)

The Department of Educational Studies



The Department has a strong and established international reputation within the field of education through its research activities and course programmes. In addition to the MPhil and PhD for research students, the programmes offered include: MA in Education: Culture, Language and Identity, MA in Artist Teachers and Contemporary Practices, PGCE Secondary (full-time and flexible routes in a range of specialist subjects), PGCE Primary (with specialist Modern Foreign Languages), BA (Hons) Education, Culture and Society.

Research in education is carried out in three main areas represented by the Department's centres where a number of externally funded projects are located and through which seminars are organised on a regular basis each term where people from inside and outside of the Department present and discuss their work. The Centre for Language, Culture and Learning investigates ways in which language and culture are integral to learning processes, both in early childhood and throughout the

life-span. Members of the Centre share a common interest in innovative research methodologies for work in cross-cultural contexts and particularly with families and communities as well as more formal educational contexts. Current research spans the areas of language, literacy and learning practices in multilingual communities including faith settings, bilingual learning strategies in mainstream and community schools and cultural practices, identities and discourses in multilingual contexts. The Centre for the Arts and Learning explores practical and theoretical aspects of learning practices across the arts within diverse social and cultural contexts. Research into the arts and learning includes visual and performing arts, design, media and communications, all incorporating traditional and emerging technologies. The work of the centre engages with aspects of aesthetics, creativity, ethics and advocacy, and learner identities and learning communities. The Centre for Identity and Social Justice aims to draw together staff and postgraduate students in the Department

who are interested in researching the ways that education relates to issues of inequality. Topics currently being researched by members of the group include the ways that beginning teachers deal with racism in their practice, girl studies, girls and physical education, the workings of permanent exclusion and the intersections of 'race', gender and class in reality TV.

Members of the Department also conduct research into learning in subject domains, especially modern foreign languages, English, mathematics, art, drama and science. Other specific staff research interests include: educational policy, bilingualism, creativity, early childhood education, teacher education, curriculum theory and practice, new technologies in education, family learning in multilingual contexts, out-of-school learning, popular culture and education, spatial aspects of education, gender, sexuality, personal and social development and the cultural politics of education. Further details of staff research interests can be found on the departmental web pages at www.goldsmiths.ac.uk/educational-studies

The Department's strong research culture is reflected in the number of research students of which there are over fifty studying either full-time or part-time. Students are encouraged to become members of the research centres and have access to a wide range of research expertise on which they can draw for support. Students are also encouraged and to contribute along with staff and other visiting scholars to seminar series

run by the Centres and to present at national and international conferences as well as submit papers for publication.

The Department has around fifty full- and part-time academic (including professorial) staff together with a team of technicians and administrators. It is based in the Education Building in Dixon Road. Research students and research projects work from dedicated space in Laurie Grove. A computer network for students is based on the first floor of the Education Building and there are additional computing facilities for research students. Further information about the Department is on the College website: www.goldsmiths.ac.uk/departments/educational-studies

Graduate School

Goldsmiths has an established Graduate School that provides a strong and supportive infrastructure for postgraduate students throughout the College. This builds on the work of individual academic and support departments by providing facilities and training for all postgraduates and encouraging intellectual and social contact across disciplines. The graduate School organises interdisciplinary seminars and conferences, giving research students the opportunity to widen their contact with other academics. Further information is at: www.goldsmiths.ac.uk/graduate-school

PART-FEES ONLY BURSARY

Conditions of offer

1. The award will run from 26 September 2011 to 30 September 2012 and is offered on the direct nomination of the Head of Department.
2. Bursaries for 75 per cent of the part- or full-time UK/EU enrolment fee (regardless of whether you are a UK/EU or overseas applicant) are payable for up to a maximum of 3 years of study (subject to satisfactory progress).
3. Renewal will be offered for the following year, up to a maximum of three years, subject to the availability of College funds and the satisfactory performance of the award-holder in research. The College also reserves the right to vary the terms of the renewal for future periods.
4. The award is available to individuals qualified to register as UK / EU students or Overseas students.
5. The award-holder must be accepted by the College as a full-time or part-time MPhil or PhD student and must undertake research in an area approved by the Department for which the Department will provide research supervision. The full-time award-holder will also accept all the obligations of a full-time research student.
6. The bursaries are available as part payment towards tuition fees.
7. The award may be terminated at one month's notice on either side.
8. Students who withdraw part way through the period when the award applies will be required to return the award in full to the Department.
9. The award-holder agrees to be bound by all *regulations* made by the College for students and any other regulations, statutes or codes of practice regulating the activities of student members of the College, which shall be in force.
10. The award-holder notes that the award does not entitle the holder to commit the College in any way to expenditure in excess of obligations under this agreement.

Department of Educational Studies
Mphil/PhD Programme Office
m.felix@gold.ac.uk
020 7919 7302

GUIDELINES FOR WRITING AN OUTLINE RESEARCH PROPOSAL

A good research proposal is required if you are interested in studying at MPhil or PhD level at Goldsmiths. It should indicate the topic that you are interested in and your experience and understanding of the area. The proposal forms a basis for discussion if you are interviewed and is important in helping us decide the supervisory support needed.

Whatever topic that you choose to research there will be a considerable investment of time and energy on your behalf. In view of this you need to consider carefully what you want to find out, whether the work is important to you and will sustain your interest and commitment over a number of years.

The proposal should be between 1,500 and 2,000 words long. Although the exact form may vary according to what you intend to do, you should aim to include the following:

Title

This may only be a working title but it should clearly indicate the field of study and your research focus within it.

Introduction

This should outline the general field of study and why you regard researching a particular aspect of this to be important. It is helpful to indicate how your own experience has led you to the particular research questions that you are asking and why you think you are in a good position to carry out the research.

Main research questions

You should state clearly what you aim to find out. You should try to make your research questions sufficiently focused so that they can be adequately addressed within the time and the resources that you have available.

Reviewing what others have done

You need to show that you are aware of the main debates and issues that are relevant to your study. Key theoretical contributions in the literature should be cited and commented upon. You should also try to outline any empirical research that you know of that links, either by way of content or method, with the work that you intend to do. Try to make clear what is already known in the immediate area and indicate how your work will add a new dimension to what already exists.

Methods

You need to give an indication of what kind of data will help you answer your main research questions. You also need to give some consideration to the practicalities of obtaining data. For example, where will you carry out fieldwork and how will you gain access to the field? Who will you need to work with, for how long, and do you think you will be able to obtain permission for this? You also need to show that you are aware of the different methods that you could use for data collection and analysis and provide a brief rationale for those methods most suited to your research.

Ethical issues

Briefly indicate any particular considerations that might arise regarding issues such as your role as researcher and confidentiality.

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