

2 PhD Studentships in Parapsychology:

Mapping the phenomenology, circumstances and impacts of paranormal experiences

£14,500 per annum and tuition fees for 3 years

Applications are invited for two fully-funded PhD Studentships to undertake research in the area of the psychology of anomalous experiences. These studentships will commence on October 1, 2024 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. The current project is part of an effort to better understand the circumstances, phenomenology and impacts of anomalous experiences by employing a mixed methods approach that combines qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis. Each of the new posts will map onto one of the following strands/topic areas:

- After-death communications
- End-of-life experiences
- Spiritual healing

Applications: Applications are welcomed from candidates who meet the following criteria:

- A master’s degree or a first- or upper second-class honours degree or equivalent in Psychology or a related field
- Some familiarity with research methods and findings in parapsychology
- Strong verbal and written communication skills
- Evidence of English Language proficiency (IELTS 7 overall, with no less than 6.5 in any element, or equivalent) if your first language is not English
- 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
- Availability to start in October 2024 and to attend induction at the University in November 2024

Each studentship will provide a tax-free stipend of £14,500 per annum, and includes a separate research budget to cover sundry expenses, including conference attendance. PhD registration fees (home rate) will also be covered. Successful candidates will have the opportunity to gain experience of teaching in HE at standard rates of payment. The successful candidates will be expected

to contribute to the activities of the Exceptional Experiences and Consciousness Studies Research Group that sits within the CP&SS (for more information about EECS, see <https://psi-encyclopedia.spr.ac.uk/articles/eecs-research-group>).

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.

Deadline for applications: 5th August 2024

Interviews: 28-30 August 2024, tbc

Start date: 1 October 2024, subject to any notice period

Informal enquiries: Prof Chris Roe, chris.roe@northampton.ac.uk

Application portal url: <https://tinyurl.com/parapsychologystudentship>

Application portal QR code:

