

PhD Research Studentship

Caledonian Academy, Centre for Research in Lifelong Learning, and Caledonian Graduate Centre

Applications are invited for a PhD Research Studentship within the Education Research Area at Glasgow Caledonian University. The studentship is for a period of three years, subject to satisfactory progress and provides payment of tuition fees at the UK/EU rate plus an annual stipend of £13,900 [please note that students from outside the EU are required to pay the difference between International and EU fees, currently this would amount to £6,100 per annum]. The successful candidate will have the opportunity to develop their research skills by contributing to other research activities in the centres for up to six hours each week.

Being a Learner: dealing with complexity and ambiguity in research and knowledge work

We live in an increasingly complex and ambiguous world – sometimes described as *supercomplex*: 'a world where nothing can be taken for granted, where no frame of understanding or of action can be entertained with any security' (Barnett, 2000). Preparing and supporting researchers to engage effectively in such a world has become a key challenge to universities.

The proposed research will explore the attributes required and employed at transition from graduate to postgraduate and into a research-based career. This study will build on the pioneering work of the Caledonian Graduate Centre with Vitae, the Universities of Reading, Manchester and Southampton in developing a researcher's attribute (disposition and qualities) framework for research students, researchers and research leaders which has benefits that relate to academic development.

A key feature of this research proposal is that it draws together expertise in education research from across the University. The supervisory team (Dr Colin Milligan, Professor Bonnie Steves and Professor David Smith) are specialists in learning communities, graduate researcher education and higher education policy respectively.

Requirements:

Applicants should possess a first class or upper second class degree providing a good grounding in qualitative and quantitative social science research methods. A relevant Masters degree would be an advantage, as would professional experience. Good English language skills will be required to undertake this research project, therefore candidates for whom English is not a first language will be asked to provide evidence of English language skills at an IELTS score of 7.0 or above (with no component less than 6.5).

How to apply:

Please return the completed application form (available at <http://www.gcal.ac.uk/graduatecentre/downloads/applicationform2.doc>)*, along with a covering letter detailing your interest in the position and how you view the project, a curriculum vitae, copies of relevant academic qualifications, names and addresses of two referees and a sample of recent writing (a chapter of your Masters thesis or another example of authoritative writing) to fiona.mcbeth@gcal.ac.uk. Applications may also be submitted by post to Ms Fiona McBeth, Caledonian Academy, Glasgow Caledonian University, Cowcaddens Road, Glasgow, G4 0BA, United Kingdom.

The closing date for applications is Monday 3 August 2009. Interviews will be held in late August/early September with the successful candidate commencing their studies in October 2009.

For further information and informal general enquiries about this PhD studentship, please contact the Director of Studies: Dr Colin Milligan (colin.milligan@gcal.ac.uk +44 (0)141 331 8495). See also the web sites for the Caledonian Academy (<http://academy.gcal.ac.uk/>), the Centre for Research in Lifelong Learning (<http://crl.gcal.ac.uk/>), and the Caledonian Graduate Centre (<http://www.gcal.ac.uk/graduatecentre/>).

For guidance in completing the generic application form, see: <http://www.caledonianacademy.net/tmp/guidance.pdf>