



**Title:** Doctoral Studentship (PhD)

**Location:** Hartpury University, Gloucestershire

**Funding:** University fees and research bursary per annum

**Contract Type:** Part Time (4 years)

**Area of Research:** Equine

**Enhancing traceability, transparency and equine welfare in sport horse breeding using assisted reproductive techniques**

Hartpury University and the World Breeding Federation for Sport Horses (WBFSH) are pleased to offer an exciting opportunity for a fees funded PhD project studying sport horse welfare during breeding using assisted reproductive techniques (ARTs). Building on previous projects, this work aims to apply a holistic approach working with WBFSH and industry stakeholders to to generate a profile of current practice in ART use across sport horse breeding, to understand cultural differences and influences underpinning ART use globally and to evaluate their implications to horse welfare. The results will inform good practice guidance and support future WBFSH education initiatives in this area.

The project will apply a mixed methods approach and would suit a student with an interest in equine welfare and breeding. The project will involve extensive industry consultation therefore the ideal candidate will be possess strong communication, relationship-building, and analytical skills and be confident working in new environments.

For more information and for an initial discussion please contact Prof Jane Williams [jane.williams@hartpury.ac.uk](mailto:jane.williams@hartpury.ac.uk).

This is a unique and exciting opportunity to become part of vibrant postgraduate community in an idyllic rural setting, with world leading facilities and undertaking impactful cutting-edge research. The University of the West of England is the awarding body for this degree. Studentships comprise of tuition fees and research project allocation.

**PhD Studentship Selection Criteria:**

Please demonstrate the following criteria in your CV and/or covering letter:

- Essential: Undergraduate degree of MSc in a field relating to the project.
- Essential: Strong communication, relationship-building, qualitative research and analytical skills.
- Desirable: Experience of working with others in a research setting and / or practical experience of the equine welfare or breeding sector.
- Desirable: Proficiency in an additional language/s and willingness to travel.

### **Candidates should also be aware of the following:**

The normal expectation is that applicants will hold a 1<sup>st</sup> or a Masters qualification from a UK university or a degree of comparable standing from a university outside the UK. The candidate's degree relevant to the studentship should demonstrate their potential for practice-led research or alternative evidence of research aptitude.

Applicants whose first language is not English require a recognised English language qualification. The minimum entry requirement is GCSE English at grade C or above or IELTS score 7.0 or TOEFL score 600 (or demonstrable equivalent).

### **Applying for a PhD studentship**

To apply for a PhD studentship, you must send the following documents [RKE.Administrator@hartpury.ac.uk](mailto:RKE.Administrator@hartpury.ac.uk):

- A curriculum vitae (maximum 3 pages).
- Copies of academic transcripts.
- A covering letter outlining your suitability for the studentship.
- Your undergraduate or postgraduate dissertation or another relevant piece of research you have completed or contributed to.
- If English is not your first language, certification of English language qualification.

Applications that do not arrive by Midnight (UK time) on 06/11/25 will not be considered.

If your application is selected, you will be invited for interview w/c 10/11/25 and, if shortlisted, 20/11/25. All applicants must ensure their availability on this date.

### **Key Dates:**

06/11/25: Deadline for submission of applications

07/11/25: Interview invitations sent to shortlisted candidates\*

w/c 10/11/25: Stage 1 Interviews (online)

20/11/25: Stage 2 Interviews at Hartpury\*

28/11/25: Deadline for accepting studentship

January 2026: Studentship begins

\*Please note that by submitting an application you are confirming your availability to attend an interview w/c 10/11/25 and, if shortlisted, 20/11/25.

**We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. We will ensure that all our recruitment and selection practices reflect this commitment. All successful candidates will be subject to Disclosure and Barring Service checks along with other relevant employment checks.**

Hartpury values a diverse workforce and welcomes applications from all sections of the community.

