

Hartpury University & Unreflected Reflections joint studentship

Masters in research (MRes) “Reflective futures: Sharing experiences and aspirations from within the Gloucester Muslim community in the present to shape the future”

Studentship overview

In partnership, Hartpury University and Unreflected Reflections are pleased to advertise a fully funded studentship to undertake a Masters by Research (MRes) full time (1 year) or part time (2 years). The studentship will involve working with the Gloucester Muslim community to generate data on current experiences around health and wellbeing. The successful student will engage with the community both in the co-creation of the study, and for data collection, enabling the candidate to develop postgraduate level project management and research study skills. The scope of the project may suit individuals who are members of the community themselves with previous experience of university study or project management.

Project overview

In a recent review of the research literature focusing on the Muslim community in sport (Hussain and Cunningham, 2022), it was suggested that very little was being conducted from within the community, potentially leading to biases/misinterpretations within reports. It was recommended that scholars should look for new avenues of research concerning the Muslim community within the sporting realm. The proposed study aims to work with the community to identify these avenues and co-create the research around the needs of the community itself. This participatory approach aims to overcome the challenges identified by Hussain and Cunningham (2022), resulting in actionable insights that will enable future development plans and innovate activity in the local area. The project will involve consultative meetings and interviews with community members and organisations, facilitated by Unreflected Reflections. Due to the sports content of the project, the successful candidate will undertake the MRes Sport and Exercise course at Hartpury University which will include several taught modules to facilitate the completion of the project. The project will involve meeting with community members and organising community events, both in Gloucester and onsite at Hartpury, whilst all taught content for the MRes programme will be delivered onsite at Hartpury.

Unreflected reflections

Unreflected Reflections (UR) is a creative platform founded to capture and celebrate the history, heritage, culture and lifestyle of the Muslim Community in Gloucester. Unreflected Reflections facilitates working relationships with organisations and local communities to capture the significance of the contributions of the Muslim community which has shaped the spaces, places and people of the city.

Following on from the **Untold Stories (90's)** and the **'History of Muslims in Gloucester' (2008)** literature, Unreflected Reflections is hoping to build on this initial work and provide learning and insights into the history and narrative on the Muslim communities in Gloucester through creative and visual approaches. to use this initiative to share true lived experiences and provided an authentic internal voice to create awareness, inform cultural practices and develop strong relationships in all aspects of life.

Unreflected reflections contact: Ismail Kholwadia – Founder, Unreflected Reflections.

Hartpury University is renowned for its high teaching quality, ranking 6th in the UK (*The Times and The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2025*) and 4th in the UK for Sports Science (*Guardian University Guide 2025*). Research submitted as part of the *Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2021* process was recognised as ‘world-leading’ and ‘internationally excellent’. The Sports Academies at Hartpury have developed over 200 international athletes during the last 10 years and overseen multiple BUCS-winning squads for rugby and football, as well as being home to the historic three-peat Gloucester-Hartpury women’s rugby team. Hartpury University and Hartpury College are committed to valuing and celebrating diversity and promoting equality and inclusion, you can read more about this on our website <https://www.hartpury.ac.uk/about-us/equality-diversity-and-inclusion/>

Supervisor: Linda Greening - Head of Inclusivity & Senior Lecturer, Hartpury University.

The successful candidate should be able to evidence the following:

- Minimum of a relevant undergraduate degree or equivalent industry experience.
- Ability to coordinate an independent project as part of their previous studies or roles.
- Experience of building relations and engaging community groups
- Knowledge, understanding and passion of sport/exercise/fitness.
- Confidence utilising Microsoft programmes including Excel and Word.
- Highly organised, independent, and curious learner.
- Exceptional levels of time management and effective communication skills.

Unreflected Reflections Responsibilities:

- Support the development of professional relationships between the student and members of the community to enable activity culminating in data collection.
- Act as an advisor around the faith and cultural literacy needs of the project.
- Support community engagement that facilitates a wider reach within the community whilst building/maintaining trust with the community.
- Facilitate quarterly reflective learning sessions with the provider and student.

To support the success of your studentship, regular meetings with both Hartpury and Unreflected Reflections staff will occur. Staff will work together to develop a timetable of study and project work and ensure timely engagement and completion of applied and academic work is to the highest of standard. To further aid in your development and experience, you will also be able to access:

- The University Library and online study resources.
- The universities’ academic and career development services.
- Research specialist academic staff.

Guide to Application

To apply for a Master's studentship, you must send the following documents to RKE.Administrator@hartpury.ac.uk :

- A curriculum vitae (maximum 3 pages)
- Copies of academic transcripts or evidence of previous project management
- A covering letter outlining your suitability for the studentship
- If English is not your first language, certification of English language qualification

Anticipated Application Process

- The deadline for applications is midnight on **1st July 2025**.
- Interviews will take place on **18th July 2025**.
- Expected start date is **September 2025**.

If you are applying from outside the UK, it is important that you are aware of the entry and additional fee requirements. Before you apply, please contact colleagues in our Hartpury Postgraduate Department (postgraduate@hartpury.ac.uk) for further information, to discuss the requirements and your application.

