

Title: Doctoral Studentship (PhD)

Application Closing Date: 6 July 2026

Location: Hartpury University, Gloucestershire.

Funding: Fees paid only (max. 5 years)

Contract Type: Part-time over a minimum of 4 years

Area of Research: Sports Coaching

Title: Exploring the lived experiences of Women Futsal Coaches in England: A Participatory Action Research Approach towards Coach Education

PROJECT OVERVIEW AND CONTACT DETAILS

This project aims to explore the lived experiences of Women Futsal Coaches in England to co-produce contextually relevant educational interventions.

The objectives are:

- To examine the lived experiences and learning biographies of women Futsal coaches.
- To identify key facilitators and barriers across intrapersonal, interpersonal, organisational, and socio-cultural domains, with attention to what, how, when, and with whom educational experiences occur.
- To co-develop, implement, and iteratively evaluate contextually relevant educational interventions through participatory cycles of planning, action, and reflection.

For more information and for an initial discussion please contact Luciana.silva@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 or MSc in a field relating to the project.
- Essential: Strong written and verbal communication skills and the ability to engage and build relationships with participants and stakeholders.
- Essential: Significant experience conducting qualitative research, including data collection and analysis.
- Essential: Ability to manage a long-term research project independently, showing strong organisation and time-management skills.
- Essential: Willingness and ability to adopt a collaborative, reflexive, and participatory research approach.

- Desirable: Experience of undertaking Participatory Action Research.
- Desirable: Practical experience of coach development and/or coaching.

Candidates should also be aware of the following:

The normal expectation is that applicants will hold a 1st classification undergraduate degree 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:

- 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 **6 July 2026** will not be considered.

If your application is selected, you will be invited for interview on **Thursday 23 July 2026**. All applicants must ensure their availability on this date.

Key Dates:

6 July 2026: Deadline for submission of applications
w/c 13 July 2026: Interview invitations sent to shortlisted candidates*
23 July 2026: Interviews at Hartpury*
24 August 2026: Deadline for accepting studentship
September 2026: Studentship begins

*Please note that by submitting an application you are confirming your availability to attend an interview on **Thursday 23 July 2026**.

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.

