

University of
Hertfordshire



School of Psychology **Postgraduate Case Studies**

The Student Experience

Within the School of Psychology, we are committed to making sure that our students have an outstanding experience while they are studying with us, and the best opportunities awaiting them following completion of their studies. This includes helping students with academic, social, and professional development.

The opportunities for our students are varied and aim to meet the aspirations of a diverse student group. Students have the chance to get involved with activities across the University and within the School, and we also have a student led Psychology Society, which hosts a series of events nominated by students throughout the year.

Our students are also encouraged to share their experiences with each other; offering a good network of peer mentoring. If you are considering studying with us or you are already progressing with your studies at the University of Hertfordshire, you may be interested in what other students have to say about their time with us!

Dr Shivani Sharma

Associate Head of School (Student Experience & Employability)



Kiri Jefferies

Master's in Cognitive Neuropsychology
(2009)



Why Cognitive Neuropsychology?

I have always, even from my undergraduate days, had an interest in Neuropsychology, and aspire to become a Chartered Clinical Psychologist with a specialism in this area. The main reason I chose the Master's was to gain extra experience in the area, and also because I knew it would be a very good stepping stone to my chosen career.

The Experience

The Master's at UH was very varied, and as a result, I gained a breadth of knowledge in the area of Neuropsychology. The Apprenticeship module was particularly useful as it allowed me to gain practical experience of working with a specific patient group, and also allowed me to develop contacts within the NHS, which helped me find a job after graduating.

Now

I currently work at the QEII Hospital in the Research and Development department where I am involved in research with patients affected by conditions such as Schizophrenia. This is the department where I carried out my Apprenticeship too. Through the Master's and my current employment, I hope to demonstrate the necessary skills to secure a place on a Clinical Doctorate programme.





Gareth Morgan

Master's in Cognitive Neuropsychology
(2011)



Why Cognitive Neuropsychology?

After completing my BSc in Psychology, I worked in a Young Offenders Institute as a Psychological Assistant delivering Cognitive Behavioural programmes for offenders aged 15-18 years. I later also went on to work in a drug and alcohol intervention team as a substance misuse worker. Having gained practical experience of working with different groups, I decided to return to University to do a Master's; mainly because I was considering a career as a Chartered Psychologist and knew I'd need to develop the breadth of my knowledge further.

The Experience

Studying at the University of Hertfordshire has been an excellent experience. In addition to gaining an in-depth knowledge of Research Methods in Neuropsychology, the course provided the opportunity for me to work along side Psychologists within the NHS, which was a great learning opportunity, as I have never worked with patients before. The lecturing staff are also very helpful, giving me lots of guidance on improving my prospects for going on to a professional doctoral programme. Overall, the University of Hertfordshire has been a great place for me!





Dr Daniel Gurney

Postgraduate
(2010)



The Experience

I started studying a BSc in Psychology in 2004, immediately following my A-levels. I was always surprised at the diversity of the BSc course here at UH, and how applicable the teaching was to so many areas. What impressed me most about the degree though was the opportunity to get involved with research. Even by the end of the first year, the course had enabled me to design and conduct studies of my own, and provided a great start into the world of conducting research.

Now

After graduation, I was eager to carry on conducting research so was then employed by the University to continue some of the work I had been doing as an undergraduate. After working on writing up a study for publication, I was fortunate enough to be offered a PhD here to continue the research of my final year project. Three years later I have now completed my PhD on the effects of nonverbal communication in police interviews and have enjoyed every moment of my time here at UH!





Carine Lewis

PhD Student
(2011)



The Experience

I first came to UH in 2005 to start my undergraduate degree in Psychology. The course provided a good balance of theory and research, with a wide range of interesting topics that enabled me to determine the area of Psychology I was particularly interested in. What really impressed me was getting to work with a supervisor for my final year project who was carrying out leading research in the area in which my project was based. I also liked that while support was always available, I was encouraged to work as independently as possible and so I developed confidence in project planning and in many other areas.

Now

Following my undergraduate degree, I applied for and successfully gained a scholarship to do a PhD looking at the effects of improvisation on thinking. I am currently in my final year and have loved every minute of it. Working as a research student at the University of Hertfordshire has helped me improve both my social and professional skills while studying in an area of personal interest, as well as giving me the opportunity to gain a range of experience in multiple areas of Psychology.





Louise Winter

Master's in Health Psychology
(2011)



Why Health Psychology?

I undertook a module in Health Psychology as part of my undergraduate degree and was very much interested in how psychological interventions can be used to improve health and well-being. I was attracted to the Master's at the University of Hertfordshire because it offers the opportunity of a work placement, which was really useful as I completed the course straight after my undergraduate degree and had no experience of working in a Health setting.

The Experience

The Master's covers a range of material, which has helped develop my understanding of different areas of Health Psychology. I have had the chance to interact with different Health Professionals too, which was very interesting and has broadened my appreciation of how Health Psychologists help people across different stages of life. The work placement has been especially invaluable as I had the opportunity to work with people with eating disorders in a clinic delivering different intervention programmes. The teaching team are very dedicated and enthusiastic about what they teach and have inspired me to continue my training to become a Chartered Health Psychologist.





Neil Howlett

Research Assistant
(2011)



The Experience

I have been at the University of Hertfordshire since 2005 when I enrolled on the BSc in Psychology. As a mature student the organization and professionalism of the course was very important to me, and I was never let down! You are given support, and allowed the freedom to use your own initiative and work in a way that suits you best. There are also lots of opportunities for students. For example, when I graduated I was successful in finding a post working on an ESRC funded research project, and was encouraged by the Professor leading the project to use the project to carryout an MSc by Research. The project resulted in two publications and gave me fantastic experience at running a study from start to finish.

Now

Having completed my MSc, I was employed to work on a different project at UH, which is allowing me to apply my psychological knowledge to help people in the real world, which was one of my main motivations for choosing psychology. Both my personal and professional lives have been greatly enhanced by coming to the University of Hertfordshire. I would recommend the University to anybody because of the rich learning environment, excellent facilities and student-friendly approach of staff.

