



**Title:** Master's Studentship (MRes)

**Application Closing Date:** 5th July 2024

**Location:** Hartpury University, Gloucestershire.

**Contract Type:** Full Time (1 year)

**Area of Research: Equine**

**Generating Horse Weight Carrying Capacity Guidelines for the Metropolitan Police Mounted Branch (UK)**

Equestrian use, particularly that in the public eye, is becoming subject to increasing scrutiny, with non-equine stakeholders questioning if traditional equine use and management practices are ethical and necessary. This has led broader animal welfare advocates to introduce the debate that equestrianism requires a social license to operate (SLO) in the modern era. The Metropolitan Police Mounted Branch aims to proactively support their horses by providing evidence-informed policy and guidance on the weight carrying capacity of their horses to ensure ethical practices that enhance the health and welfare of the horses in the mounted branch.

The proposed study will focus on a systematic review of existing research, analysis of historic data and a Delphi study to inform an evidence-based approach to develop robust weight carrying capacity guidelines for horses utilized within the Metropolitan Police Mounted Branch.

The concept for this studentship arises directly from industry. The project will be supported by Hartpury's partner, the Metropolitan Police Mounted Branch. Potential candidates should be prepared to be based within easy travelling distance of Hartpury University.

For more information and for an initial discussion please contact: Lorna Cameron: [Lorna.Cameron@hartpury.ac.uk](mailto:Lorna.Cameron@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 studentship comprises of full Master's tuition fees (£11,000) allowing the student a pivotal position in the development of future equine welfare policy within the Metropolitan Police Mounted Branch.

## **Studentship Selection Criteria:**

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

- **Essential** undergraduate degree in a field relating to either equine science, equine welfare, veterinary science or a related field.
- **Essential** quantitative data analysis skills in Excel.
- **Desirable** experience/background of horses and riding
- **Desirable** skill/experience of working with others in a research setting and/or industry experience
- Strong evidence of understanding of Social License to Operate (SLO) within equestrian fields
- Strong evidence of understanding of the Five Domains Model of Animal Welfare Assessment
- Excellent written and spoken communication skills in English

Knowledge of working equids, systematic reviews and written and spoken communication skills would be advantageous for this position.

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

The normal expectation is that applicants will hold at least a 2:1 Undergraduate 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 recognized 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 Master's studentship**

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
- A covering letter outlining your suitability for the studentship
- Your undergraduate 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 5th July 2024 will not be

considered.

If your application is selected, you will be invited for an interview on 15th July 2024. All applicants must ensure their availability on this date.

Key Dates:

- 5th July 2024: Deadline for submission of applications
- 10th July 2024: Interview invitations sent to shortlisted candidates\*
- 15th July 2024: Interviews at Hartpury\*
- 31 July 2024: Deadline for accepting studentship
- September 2024: Studentship begins

\*Please note that by submitting an application you are confirming your availability to attend an interview on Monday the 15<sup>th</sup> July 2024.

**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.

