

# **De Montfort University**

## **Graduate School Full Bursary PhD Scholarship**

**A critical evaluation of the impact of neoliberal policy on the lived experience of school communities in UK primary education**

**Institute for Education Futures**  
**School of Applied Social Sciences, Faculty of Health and Life Sciences**  
**De Montfort University, Leicester**

**COMMENCING OCTOBER 2017**

A PhD research scholarship including stipend and tuition fee costs is offered within the Institute for Education Futures in the School of Applied Social Sciences. It is available to UK or EU students who are suitably qualified and have outstanding potential as a researcher.

In offering this scholarship the University aims to further develop its proven research strengths in education policy and practice. It is an excellent opportunity for a candidate of exceptional promise to contribute to a stimulating, world-class research environment.

Project outline

This project will analyse current education policy and policy changes in the context of UK primary school communities. It will situate the development of UK education policy against theories of neoliberalism, and the ways in which resulting discourses have become concretised in Primary Sector practices. The project will investigate the relationships between the claims made for education and social mobility, attainment and human capital theory, in order to model the impact of educational policy on primary school communities. An analysis of power in such communities that include pupils, parents, teachers and governors, lies at the heart of the project. As a result, its methodological framework will be negotiated, for instance to focus on ethnographic research, grounded theory or critical discourse analysis.

For a more detailed description of the scholarship, the subject area at DMU and an application pack please visit <http://www.dmu.ac.uk/research/graduate-school/phd-scholarships.aspx>. Please direct academic queries to Professor Richard Hall on +44 (0)116 207 8254 or email [rhall1@dmu.ac.uk](mailto:rhall1@dmu.ac.uk) For administrative queries contact the Graduate School office email: [researchstudents@dmu.ac.uk](mailto:researchstudents@dmu.ac.uk), tel : 0116 250-6309. Completed applications should be returned together with two supporting references and an academic transcript.

Applications are invited from UK or EU students with a Master's degree or good first degree in a relevant subject (First, 2:1 or equivalent). Doctoral scholarships are available for up to three years full-time study commencing in October 2017 consisting of a bursary of £14,296 per annum in addition to waiver of tuition fees.

Please quote ref: HLSFB3

**CLOSING DATE: Monday 10th April, 2017. Interviews for shortlisted candidates will be held by Friday 28th April approximately.**