



Graduate Teaching Assistant Studentship

Reference:	EHGTA-1122
Salary:	A 'package' with a total value just under £26,000 per annum for UK based applicants and over £34,000 for international applicants per annum
Contract Type:	Fixed term for 36 months
Hours:	Full time studentship. GTAs will teach an average of 6 hours per week over at least 24 weeks of the academic year, or 144 hours in total over the full academic year
Location:	Ormskirk Campus
Accountable to:	Head of Department or other designated individual
Reporting to:	Head of Department or other designated individual
Overseen by:	The Graduate School

About Edge Hill University

At Edge Hill University we believe in the life changing opportunities knowledge can create. Since 1885, we've been creating access to knowledge for those who may not have had the opportunity to before.

Today, the effect we have has a far-reaching impact, not just for those who come to study here but for those who work, invest in, and live in our local communities too. So, if you've ever wondered if one person can make a difference, simply speak to our alumni, students, and award-winning staff.

Because for us education isn't about how much you take in. It's about what you take out into the world.

Inspiring minds and changing futures since 1885, Edge Hill University is "A great success story... an institution that improves and impresses year after year" – Times Higher Education.

Edge Hill University has a commitment to, and substantial track record in promoting, research that enhances the reputation of the University whilst underpinning the teaching curriculum and there are well developed processes to support postgraduate researchers (PGRs).

About the Graduate School

All postgraduate researchers (PGRs) are registered in the University's [Graduate School](#) and housed in the faculty or department that is most appropriate for the project on which they are working. The University has ambitious plans to strategically develop its research profile and this post forms part of those plans. We would be keen to see the post-holders engage in research that complements staff interests and, where appropriate, crosses the boundaries between subject areas.

About the Project

All postgraduate researchers (PGRs) are registered in the University's Graduate School and housed in the faculty or department that is most appropriate for the project on which they are working. The GTA appointed to this project will be housed with the Department of Psychology.

This Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA) post will specifically contribute to our research in health psychology, with a focus on cancer survivorship. The successful applicant will undertake research to build on our existing programme of research testing the '*Finding My Way*' online psychosocial intervention for cancer survivors. Originally developed in Australia, this has been adapted for the UK context and is currently being tested as part of a large-scale Randomised Controlled Trial.

This specific project will apply a coaching and positive psychology perspective to cancer survivorship, and will test whether using *Finding My Way* can lead to increased benefit finding and post-traumatic growth following cancer treatment. The following research studies may form part of the work:

1. **Systematic Literature Review.** You will consult the existing literature on benefit finding and post-traumatic growth in cancer survivors to identify which intervention components are more likely to change these outcomes in cancer survivors.
2. **Measure adaptation.** There is a lack of consensus about whether existing measures for benefit finding and post-traumatic growth are effective. Part of your work may explore whether adaptations to these are required, including potential psychometric validation, prior to further use.
3. **Intervention adaptation.** Based on the findings of the literature review you may need to make small modifications to the content of *Finding My Way*.
4. **Intervention testing.** Studies using *Finding My Way* to date have typically focussed on the reduction of psychological comorbidities as primary outcomes. Here, you will recruit a sample of cancer survivors and test whether engagement with the programme results in improved benefit finding and post-traumatic growth.

This will be a primarily quantitative programme of work and is not suitable for a student looking for a qualitative PhD. Previous experience with online technologies is desirable, and confidence in using (or willingness to learn) advanced statistical approaches is essential. You will be working in collaboration with our colleagues in the College of Education, Psychology & Social Work (Discipline of Psychology) at Flinders University, Australia.



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This is an excellent opportunity for applicants to undertake an original programme of applied psychology research. We have excellent links with a range of local and national cancer treatment centres and charities, and existing links with local patient groups and dedicated research advisors with lived experience of cancer. This helps us to make sure that our research matters to people living with and beyond cancer, and has a high likelihood of impacting health and social care and support provided to this population. We expect the successful candidate to be passionate about interdisciplinary applied research. Alongside your research you will support teaching across a range of undergraduate psychology degrees, all of which are accredited by the British Psychological Society (BPS).

About You

You will have a 2.1 or above undergraduate degree in Psychology, whilst a Masters degree would also be an advantage. You should have a passion for pursuing original research in your subject area along with the desire to develop your teaching ability by supporting an experienced and dynamic undergraduate programme team.

Highly motivated, resilient and with the determination to succeed, you will be committed to undertaking a PhD and will possess strong written and oral communication skills along with excellent organisational skills.

Please note:

- If you already have a PhD in the research area you are applying for, your application will not normally be considered unless submitted for a suitably different research area.
- Applicants who have applied more than two times previously should not normally apply again with the same research project.



About the Role

Graduate Teaching Assistants hold a unique position in the University, being both registered postgraduate researchers (PGRs) undertaking a full-time PhD in the Graduate School and carrying out teaching/teaching support duties.

PGRs with a GTA studentship will be expected to:

- Complete a programme of researcher development.
- Undertake tailored continuing researcher development.
- Complete a programme of training in teaching in Higher Education.
- Complete a PhD programme of research under the guidance of an appointed supervisory team.
- Undertake up to **six hours teaching** a week as directed by the Head of Department.
- Undertake up to **nine hours per week of marking and preparation**.
- Enhance the research culture of the department in which they are located, and of the University as a whole, by participating in development activities including publication and presenting at conferences.

The successful candidates will be allocated a mentor from the permanent teaching staff in respect of their teaching responsibilities, and a supervisory team of at least two suitably qualified members of Edge Hill University.

Duties and Responsibilities

The duties and responsibilities of this post are as follows. The postholder will be expected to carry out the following as and when required.

1. Work with a designated Director of Studies and supervisory team to develop the research project into one suitable for registration for PhD at the University
2. Undertake a supervised programme of research with the aim of completion by the end of the contract
3. Support student learning including preparation and delivery of taught sessions (or external work-based placements, practicals, seminars and clinical practice as appropriate) as a member of a team within an established programme under the guidance of an allocated mentor (based on an average of 6 hours of teaching, and 9 hours marking and preparation, per week across the teaching year)
4. Monitor student progress against agreed criteria and intervene appropriately to support student learning, including marking student work (using marking schemes prepared by a permanent member of the teaching staff)
5. Perform administrative tasks directly related to the teaching role, including the maintenance of attendance lists and the submission of mark sheets by agreed deadline dates
6. Seek opportunities to give conference papers, present posters and submit articles to recognised academic media, based on the programme of research
7. Communicate effectively and using appropriate media to a range of internal and external groups including students, colleagues, supervisors and researchers
8. Contribute effectively to the maintenance and continued development of teaching and research at Edge Hill University
9. Use initiative to deal with day-to-day issues using professional judgement regarding particular situations and refer problems as appropriate
10. Plan own day-to-day activity within a framework of agreed activity, coordinating own work with that of others to ensure effective achievement of targets

11. Be aware of risks in the work environment and the influence upon others, always working within scopes of practice and adhering to the relevant ethical guidelines and codes of conduct
12. Possess sufficient breadth and depth of knowledge to be able to contribute to the relevant programme(s) and engage in staff development to support the role
13. To abide by the University Research Code of Practice and the University Framework for Research Ethics (available via the Research wiki)
14. Carry out any other duties deemed commensurate with the post

In addition to the above all Edge Hill University staff are required to:

- a) Adhere to all Edge Hill's policies and procedures, including Equality and Diversity and Health and Safety
- b) Respect confidentiality: all confidential information should be kept in confidence and not released to unauthorised persons
- c) Undertake appropriate learning and development activities as required
- d) Participate in Edge Hill's Performance Review and Development Scheme
- e) Adhere to Edge Hill University's environmental policy and guidelines and undertake tasks in a sustainable manner
- f) Demonstrate excellent Customer Care in dealing with all customers

Eligibility

Candidates should have a good honours degree in Psychology and/or a Masters level qualifications in a relevant subject area.¹

Although it is possible for candidates to apply for the GTA scheme more than once, candidates who have applied unsuccessfully on two or more occasions are unlikely to be shortlisted for interview.

Candidates should only apply for one opportunity at one time. Applications submitted across multiple research areas will not be accepted.

You will be registered on your research degree as a full-time postgraduate researcher. Due to teaching duties occurring alongside your studies, it is normally the case that successful candidates discontinue any other employment during their registration. You will be unable to undertake additional paid employment for Edge Hill University during your period as a Graduate Teaching Assistant.

International and EU candidates who require a visa to study in the UK will need to demonstrate that they meet the requirements for the relevant visa *and* possess appropriate English Language level demonstrated through an IELTS overall score of 7.0 with no element below 6.5 or equivalent. **Evidence of English Language level must be provided at application to be considered.** Further guidance can be found [here](#). Please be advised that letters of recommendation, and requests to waive language entry requirements, will not be accepted.

Applications are not normally accepted from candidates who already possess a PhD in the same, or related, subject area, unless there are compelling reasons for doing so. If a PhD has been obtained in the UK as a Tier 4 (General) Student Visa holder, further sponsorship cannot be offered under the Tier 4 (General) Student Visa category, as this will not meet the academic progression requirements set by the UKVI.

Successful candidates must be able to commence PhD registration, and GTA employment, from **30 September 2023** on a full-time basis.² All candidates are required to attend the Graduate School Research Degree induction on Saturday 30 September 2023 at the Ormskirk campus. **Due to the nature of this role, we are unable to offer working from home options.** In addition, GTAs are not normally permitted to undertake any other full-time employment during their studentship.

¹ Please note that candidates with a master's level qualification, but not an undergraduate honours degree (2:1 or above) supersede the minimum entry requirement. Candidates in this case are eligible to apply.

² Full-time PhD PGRs are expected to dedicate **35 hours, per week**, to their research. PhD PGRs, who are also GTAs, are required to undertake 6 hours teaching and 9 hours marking/preparing per week on top of this time dedicated to research.

Candidates should note that shortlisting will be based on information provided on the application form with regard to the applicant's ability to meet the criteria outlined in the Person Specification attached.

It is important to note that the successful applicant will be required to undertake an enhanced disclosure for you from the Disclosure and Barring Service and that this will form part of the conditions of offer of employment.



Please note that applications will be assessed against the Person Specification using the following criteria, therefore, applicants should provide evidence of their ability to meet all criteria.

Methods of Assessment include Application Form (A), Supporting Statement (S), Interview (I), Test (T) & Presentation (P).

		Essential	Desirable	Method of assessment (A/S/I/T/P)
Qualifications				
1.	A good honours degree in psychology (2:1 or above)	*		A
2.	Higher qualifications relevant to the post, such as a postgraduate degree, professional qualification, or evidence of progress towards such qualifications		*	A
3.	The candidate meets the English Language requirements needed for doctoral study (link to requirements)	*		A
Communication Skills				
4.	Ability to communicate complex information effectively	*		A/I/P
Scholarly Activity & Research				
5.	Ability to design a viable doctoral project	*		A/P
6.	Knowledge and skills indicative of a potential to complete high quality doctoral level research	*		A/I/P
7.	Previous experience of research		*	A/I
Personal & Professional Development				
8.	Ability to reflect on own skills and knowledge, and to seek opportunities to develop		*	I
Teaching Potential				
9.	The potential to contribute to existing teaching at the University	*		I
10.	Awareness of techniques and methods suitable for teaching groups with a range of abilities		*	I
11.	Successful teaching experience or other evidence of the ability to be an effective teacher at this level		*	A/I

How to Apply

When you are ready to start the formal application process, please visit our [Current Vacancies page](#) and click 'vacancies', search for the role you wish to apply for, and click 'Apply Online'. The online application form can be completed in stages and can be revisited at any time. The form automatically saves as you enter your information and it is simple to move backwards and forwards throughout at any time prior to submission. Help is available at each stage to guide you through the form. Before final submission, you can preview your application and can then choose to refine or submit the form.

Please refer to the advert for the closing date for this vacancy, all applications must be submitted by 11.59pm on this date. Following the closing date, we will contact you by email to let you know whether or not you have been shortlisted to participate in the next stage of the selection process.

At Edge Hill University we value the benefits a rich and diverse workforce brings to our community and therefore welcome applications from all sections of society.

Selection Criteria

Candidates should note that shortlisting and selection will be based on the following:

- Information provided on the application form with regard to the applicant's ability to meet the criteria outlined in the Person Specification attached
- The **quality** of the research proposal
- The **synergy** between your qualifications, research experience and declared research interest
- Your *curriculum vitae*
- Performance at interview
- Supervisory capacity in the declared area of research
- Previous tutoring/teaching experience and related subject based qualifications
- The strategic and developmental needs of the University

The Selection Process

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to interview and asked to give a presentation related to their research proposal. Successful candidates at interview will be put forward to a final selection panel which will make the decision on the award of the studentships. Candidates will not have to attend the final panel. **Due to the number of interviews taking place, we are only able to offer interviewees one interview opportunity.**

Rearrangement requests will not be possible.

Key contacts

Please think about the support you need and contact one of the areas directly.

- **Research project and supervision questions:** please contact hulbertwn@edgehill.ac.uk
- **Application for and employment questions:** please contact srpshelpdesk@edgehill.ac.uk
- **PhD registration and qualification questions:** please contact graduateschooladmissions@edgehill.ac.uk