



## **Investigating and Improving Post-16 Mathematics Learning - ESRC DTP Collaborative Studentship in the Midlands Graduate School**

### **Loughborough University and Oxford University Press**

The Midlands Graduate School is an accredited Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) Doctoral Training Partnership (DTP), with the first intake of students to begin in October 2017.

One of 14 such partnerships in the UK, the Midlands Graduate School is a collaboration between the University of Warwick, Aston University, University of Birmingham, University of Leicester, Loughborough University and the University of Nottingham.

Loughborough University, as part of the Midlands Graduate School, is now inviting applications for an ESRC Doctoral Studentship in association with our collaborative partner Oxford University Press (OUP) to commence in October 2017.

Mathematical text places unusual demands on learners. Research suggests that otherwise skilled readers do not read mathematics effectively. For instance, pilot eye-movement studies have shown that reading mathematics successfully requires specialist skills, but there is minimal evidence on what those skills are or how to teach them. Through a series of eye-movement and larger-scale experiments, this PhD project will generate robust evidence about (i) the reading behaviours that are associated with successful mathematics learning, and (ii) how effective mathematical reading can be promoted via changes to textbook design or provision of instructional guidance. OUP's involvement will ensure that the research addresses issues of concern to educational publishers, and that the insights gained from the research directly inform the publishing industry.

The successful candidate will be based in the [Mathematics Education Centre](#) (MEC) at Loughborough University, an internationally renowned research centre with particular research strengths in mathematical cognition and pedagogy. They will be supervised by [Dr Matthew Inglis](#) and [Dr Lara Alcock](#). Each year the successful candidate will have a placement at OUP, one of the largest international publishers of both print and online learning resources, and a primary provider of UK professional development for mathematics teachers.

Candidates should have studied mathematics to at least A level standard, have a degree in education, psychology, mathematics or a related subject, have an interest in mathematics education and/or the psychology of learning, and ideally have some experience of teaching or tutoring. Candidates without a Masters degree will be eligible for a 1+3 award, the first year of which consists of a Masters in Social Science Research.

## **Application Process**

To be considered for this PhD, please complete the Collaborative Studentship application form [available online here](#) and email it to Bogdana Huma at [B.Huma@lboro.ac.uk](mailto:B.Huma@lboro.ac.uk). You should also include a degree transcript from your undergraduate and/or masters-level study and two references.

**Application deadline: 17th February 2017**

## **Midlands Graduate School ESRC DTP**

Our ESRC studentships cover fees and maintenance stipend and extensive support for research training, as well as research activity support grants. Support is available only to successful applicants who fulfil eligibility criteria. To check your eligibility, visit:

[http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/cross\\_fac/mgsdtp/studentships/eligibility/](http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/cross_fac/mgsdtp/studentships/eligibility/)

Informal enquiries about the research, or the Mathematics Education Centre at Loughborough University, can be directed to Dr Matthew Inglis ([m.j.inglis@lboro.ac.uk](mailto:m.j.inglis@lboro.ac.uk)).