

## Part funding for Med Psychology of Education- Bethan Thomas

I started my MEd in Psychology of Education at The University of Manchester in September 2013. I am half way through the 2 year course as I am a part time student.

The FPSA have partly funded my first year and my studies wouldn't have been possible without them recognising the potential impact this experience and qualification will have on my work within adolescent mental health.

So far I have covered two intensive units on Developmental Cognitive Neuropsychology. The course covered a range of neurological, psychological, genetic and clinical research methods as well as understanding the brain's functions and development. It focused heavily on variations in development and helped us to be able to critically appraise "abnormal development". Critical evaluation of research was a major component to this unit and the assessments and is a strong theme throughout the course as a whole.

During this first year I have also completed a unit on Research issues in the Psychology field. This unit helped us prepare for research proposal which will then be the research we conduct for the final dissertation. This unit helped me understand how to examine and critique other research proposals to best scrutinise and create my own. It taught range of methods available to researchers and be able to evaluate their utility in different contexts. I have used this proposal to launch my research this summer for analysing and final write up for submission next year.

The final unit covered in my first year was Social Psychology of education. It covered the role of intra-personal processes, inter-personal processes and wider socio-cultural influences in the classroom. Examples of this are bullying and the importance of self-esteem in the classroom.

I hope to continue my studies next year and would like to thank FPSA for allowing me the opportunity to widen my knowledge and expertise in the field of adolescent mental health. This will be a stepping stone to a career in helping young people who are having difficulties access opportunities and achieve equally to their peers.