

## **PhD Research Scholarship Opportunity at National University of Singapore**

### **Stages of Family in the Making in Singapore from Antenatal to Postnatal Period**

With an ideal start date of January 2017, **ONE** Research Scholarship (RS) is available at the National University of Singapore (NUS) for prospective PhD students interested in completing research on family functioning and well-being. Successful applicants will complete their degree in the [Department of Psychology](#) under the supervision of [Prof Catherine Tang](#). The deadline for application is 17 October 2016 for starting in January 2017.

The RS details can be found [here](#). The end-date of the RS award will be the fourth year of study and it will cover tuition fees and provide a monthly stipend. The scholarship is targeted for applicants who have training and skills in the following areas and will continue to focus on these topics in their PhD programmes:

- an NUS Honours degree (at least Distinction/Second Class Upper Division) or equivalent (e.g., a four-year Bachelors degree with an average grade above B) in psychology and an interest in developmental, social, and health psychology
- a good command of qualitative and quantitative statistical skills

The PhD thesis work should be an independent project which fits broadly into the overall research project on “**Stages of Family in the Making in Singapore from Antenatal to Postnatal Period**” (Principal Investigator [PI]: Prof Catherine Tang, Department of Psychology & the Centre for Family & Population Research):

The well-being of a family requires constant individual and concerted readjustment and adaptation of the respective family members from marriage, pregnancy, childbirth to parenthood. The perinatal period is a unique period which involves changes in different domains of life, resulting in the need for substantial psychosocial and family structure readjustment for both parents. With the dynamic changes of perception on family making in Singapore, what are the keys to successful transition which could in turn lead to healthy family functioning? The research questions include: 1. How do families handle the transition and the quality of family functioning across perinatal period? 2. What are the relationships between maternal, paternal, off-springs’ wellbeing and family function? 3. How does maternal and paternal well-being influence off-springs’ development? 4. What is the role of parenting style in these relationships? 5. What are the factors that facilitate or impair this transition?

### **Department of Psychology and the Centre for Family & Population Research**

The [NUS Psychology](#) programme was first introduced during the 1986-87 academic year and is the oldest psychology programme in Singapore. Since its inception, the psychology programme has attracted a strong response from students in the Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences at NUS. At present, the Department of Psychology has 33 full-time and 14 adjunct teaching staff. The Department offers a full undergraduate programme, including an honours course, as well as Masters and Ph.D. programmes. All major areas of psychology are taught and researched.

The [NUS Centre for Family and Population Research](#) was established in April, 2014 as a Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences research centre. It is dedicated to the scientific advancement of research and training to understand the trends, determinants, and consequences of family and population changes, particularly in Asia. The Centre aims to bridge basic academic research with public policies that affect family's well-being. The Centre's research adopts a multi-disciplinary, life course, and international comparative approach.

### **Application Procedure**

Graduate research students in the Department of Psychology follow a semi-structured programme that involves a taught component in the first one to two years of registration. The programme allows a PhD student to acquire and develop to a high standard both subject-specific and transferable skills, thus enabling a student to access a broad range of future employment opportunities – in business, industry, consultancy, education, research etc.

Applicants must possess an NUS Honours degree (at least Distinction/Second Class Upper Division) or equivalent (e.g., a four-year Bachelors degree with an average grade above B) in psychology at the time of the RS award. Applications from candidates who also already hold a graduate degree (e.g. Masters) are particularly welcome. There is no restriction on the nationality of applicants.

Applicants who are able to start the PhD programme in January 2017 are strongly preferred. For further information and details on pursuing an application for the January 2017 intake, please email your CV, scanned copies of transcript(s), personal statement and GRE/IELTS/TOEFL score report (where applicable) to [Prof Catherine Tang](#) (email: [tang.catherine@nus.edu.sg](mailto:tang.catherine@nus.edu.sg)) & [Ms Loh Poh Yee](#) (email: [psylohpy@nus.edu.sg](mailto:psylohpy@nus.edu.sg)) **as soon as possible** (before 17 October 2016).

If a suitable applicant cannot be identified for a January 2017 start date, applications will continue to be accepted for the August 2017 intake. The application deadline is 1 November 2016. Applications must be submitted [here](#). In addition, all applicants must write separately to [Prof Catherine Tang](#) (email: [tang.catherine@nus.edu.sg](mailto:tang.catherine@nus.edu.sg)) to indicate an interest in applying for the scholarship by 1 November 2016.