

Bethan Thomas- Year 2 of part time Med Psychology of Education. University of Manchester

I was successful in gaining funds towards my second year of studying for a part time psychology masters. This funds allowed me to continue my studies and I am more than grateful to the FPSA.

I began the year by covering how to conduct quantitative research including collating and analysing data using specialist software. This was especially relevant to me and I was conducting my research for the dissertation using quantitative methods.

The first term also included Human Development which includes learning theories such as Attachment Theory which has an important influence of most areas of adolescent mental health field such as schools, hospitals, care homes and indeed family environments.

The second term covered Applied Psychology in which we were encouraged to find out about various applied work fields such as occupational psychology, educational psychology and clinical psychology. The assessment for this was an innovative and engaging piece of work in which we had to write a bid for funding for a psychological intervention for a specific target group. This unit really engaged us to start think about what area we want to specialise in and it certainly helped me to identify areas in which I am keen to pursue.

The second term also covered issues in S.E.N. This was a though provoking and engaging unit looking at the needs of every child and how these can be addressed. I specifically focused on successful implementation of alternative education.

The end to this masters was the dissertation. This was a 15,000 word document in which I carried out independent research, authorised by the ethics department. This taught me to self-manage my time and prioritise tasks. It was certainly the most time consuming but satisfying piece of work on the course.

Thank you again, FPSA for making this happen and I will undoubtedly repay the field of psychology for young people in the many years ahead.