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## **Doctorate in game of bridge is on the cards for university**

Stirling University is to fund a doctorate in bridge, after a study showed the card game keeps people smarter, happier and more social into old age.

The PhD in the Sociology of Bridge is part of a collaborative research project which will look at what drives people to take up bridge and keep playing throughout their lives.

It will also explore the role a hobby can play in friendships and personal communities, as well as how it creates a sense of belonging and collective identity within and across generations.

The university has also set up a new bridge club and is inviting people to join.

An earlier project in England looked at the responses of more than 6,400 bridge players and found that those who play the game have higher levels of well-being than those who do not.

Professor of Sociology Samantha Punch, co-leader of the new research project, said: "The new University Bridge Club has the potential to enable people to maintain good health, through increased positive cognitive, social and quality of life outcomes."