

Information on Postgraduate Research Scholarship - Ref: VCS-FLAS-04-2025	
Faculty:	FLAS
Department:	Law & Criminology
Lead Supervisor:	Dr Sarah Kilbane
Project Title:	Co-Producing an Intersectional Stigma Reduction Programme for People in the Criminal Justice System with Mental Health Issues
Project Description:	<p>Individuals in the criminal justice system (CJS) with mental health conditions face multiple layers of stigma that severely impact their ability to secure housing, employment, reintegrate into society, and maintain social connections. These stigmas stem from mental illness, offending history, substance use, ethnicity, and other factors. The Lancet Commission (Thornicroft et al., 2022) recently called for the eradication of mental illness stigma through interventions co-produced by people with lived experience (PWLE). This aligns with the World Health Organization's Comprehensive Mental Health Action Plan 2013-2030. However, there are few targeted interventions addressing stigma towards people in the CJS with mental health conditions, and none that are co-produced by this population.</p> <p>Over three years this project aims to co-produce an intersectional stigma reduction programme specifically designed with people in the CJS with mental health issues. In the first year, a literature review synthesising evidence for stigma reduction efforts in this population will be conducted, and initial meetings will be held with current and former forensic patients and their carers. The second year will focus on developing the intervention materials, structure, and outputs, which may include arts-based components and creative methodologies. The third year will involve piloting the stigma reduction intervention using mixed methods to evaluate its effectiveness.</p> <p>The target audiences for this programme include the general public, social supervisors, and healthcare professionals. This project will foster clear working relationships with PWLE through local partnerships, ensuring the inclusion of intersectional experiences and co-development with the relevant local community. It aims to pilot and build an evidence base for a replicable stigma reduction intervention. The project aligns with the NHS national Patient Carer Race Equality Framework and prioritizes the voices of marginalized communities. It is multidisciplinary, involving sociology, criminology, psychology, and lived experience.</p>
Duration:	3 years, Full-Time Study or 6 years, Part-Time Study
<p>Bursary available (subject to satisfactory performance): Year 1: £20,780 (FT) or pro-rata (PT) Year 2: In line with UKRI rate Year 3: In line with UKRI rate</p> <p>In addition, the successful candidate will receive a contribution to tuition fees equivalent to the university's Home rate, currently £4,596 (FT) or pro-rata (PT), for the duration of their scholarship. International applicants will need to pay the remainder tuition fee for the duration of their scholarship.</p>	

This fee is subject to an annual increase.

Person Specification of Essential (E) or Desirable (D) requirements:

Criteria:	E or D
------------------	---------------

Education and Training:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1st Class or 2nd class, First Division (Upper Second Class) honours degree or a taught master's degree with a minimum average of 60% in all areas of assessment (UK or UK equivalent) in a relevant area to the proposed research project 	E
---	----------

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For those whose first language is not English and/or if from a country where English is not the majority spoken language (as recognised by the UKBA), a language proficiency score of at least IELTS 6.5 (in all elements of the test) or an equivalent UK VISA and Immigration secure English Language Test is required, if your programme falls within the faculty of Engineering and Science a language proficiency score of at least IELTS 6.5 overall with a minimum of 6.0 in all elements of the test or an equivalent UK VISA and Immigration secure English Language Test is required. Unless the degree above was taught in English and obtained in a majority English speaking country, e.g. UK, USA, Australia, New Zealand, etc, as recognised by the UKBA. 	E
---	----------

Experience & Skills:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Previous experience of undertaking research (e.g. undergraduate or taught master's dissertation) 	E
--	----------

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Previous experience of disseminating research findings (e.g. conference presentation, academic publication, etc.) 	D
---	----------

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Previous experience with both qualitative and quantitative methods of analysis. 	D
---	----------

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A background in psychology, criminology, or another relevant subject area. 	D
--	----------

Personal Attributes:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understands the fundamental differences between a taught degree and a research degree in terms of approach and personal discipline/motivation 	E
---	----------

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Able to, under guidance, complete independent work successfully 	E
---	----------

Other Requirements:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This scholarship may require Academic Technology Approval Scheme approval for the successful candidate if from outside of the EU/EEA 	E
--	----------

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The scholarship must commence before September 2026 	E
---	----------

Closing date for applications:	midnight UTC on 30th April 2026
---------------------------------------	---

For further information contact:	s.kilbane@gre.ac.uk
---	--

Making an application:

Please read this information before making an application. Information on the application process is available at: <https://www.gre.ac.uk/research/study/apply/application-process>. Applications need to be made online via this link. **No other form of application will be considered.**

All applications **must include** the following information. **Applications not containing these documents will not be considered.**

- Scholarship Reference Number (Ref)**– included in the personal statement section together with your personal statement as to why you are applying
- a CV including 2 referees ***

- **academic qualification certificates/transcripts and IELTS/English Language certificate if you are an international applicant or if English is not your first language or you are from a country where English is not the majority spoken language as defined by the UK Border Agency ***

**upload to the qualification section of the application form. Attachments must be a PDF format.*

Before submitting your application, you are encouraged to liaise with the Lead Supervisor on the details above.