

Information on Postgraduate Research Scholarship - Ref: VCS-GBS-02-2025			
Faculty:	Greenwich Business School	Department: School of Accounting, Finance and Economics	
Lead Supervisor:	Dr Lianfeng Quan		
Project Title:	Liquidity Risks in Agent-Based Mobile Money Networks: Systemic Fragility in Sub-Saharan Africa		
Project Description:	In the wake of Sub-Saharan Africa's (SSA) success in mobile financial innovation, liquidity shortages among mobile money agents remain a recurring challenge. Around 20% of agents report persistent float deficiencies, particularly in high-inflation environments and during periods of economic uncertainty, exposing systemic vulnerabilities that may erode trust and hinder financial inclusion. This project investigates the structural determinants of liquidity risk within SSA's mobile money ecosystems using network mapping and econometric analysis of agent interdependencies to reveal how liquidity shocks propagate and to guide policies that strengthen digital financial resilience.		
Duration:	3 years, Full-Time Study or 6 years, Part-Time Study		
Bursary available (subject to satisfactory performance):			
Year 1: £22,780 (UKRI 2025-26 standard rate plus London Weighting) Years 2 & 3: In line with relevant UKRI rate			
Tuition fees will be waived up to a maximum amount equivalent to the University's Home tuition fee rate.			
Person Specification of Essential (E) or Desirable (D) requirements:			
Criteria:			E or D
Education and Training:			
• A master's degree in finance, Economics, Data Science, or related fields (with strong training in econometrics, quantitative analysis, and programming).			E
• A First Class (1st) or Upper Second Class (2:1) Honours degree for undergraduate study, or a taught Master's degree awarded with Distinction (≥70%) or Merit (minimum average of 60%) in all assessed components.			E
• 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:	
• Previous experience of undertaking research (e.g. undergraduate or taught master's dissertation)	E
• Econometrics – strong quantitative and causal inference methods (e.g., DiD, panel data).	E
• Data Analysis and Visualization – proficiency in Python or R for large-scale data handling and visualization.	E
• Excellent Written and Verbal Communication Skills – ability to produce academic papers and policy briefs	E
• Familiarity with Machine Learning and Natural Language Processing (NLP).	D
• Some knowledge of, or interest in, Sub-Saharan African financial systems or development contexts	D
• Network Science – understanding of network metrics and systemic risk propagation.	D
Personal Attributes:	
• Understands the fundamental differences between a taught degree and a research degree in terms of approach and personal discipline/motivation	E
• Able to, under guidance, complete independent work successfully	E
Other Requirements:	
• This scholarship may require Academic Technology Approval Scheme approval for the successful candidate if from outside of the EU/EEA	E
• The scholarship must commence before 1st January 2026	E
Closing date for applications:	12th of November 2025
For further information contact:	Dr Lianfeng Quan, L.quan@gre.ac.uk Dr Vicky Lee, Y.Lee@greenwich.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 (VCS-GBS-02-2025)– 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 * <i>*upload to the qualification section of the application form. Attachments must be a PDF format.</i> Before submitting your application, you are encouraged to liaise with the Lead Supervisor on the details above.	