

Information on Postgraduate Research Scholarship – Ref: VCS-FEHHS-01-25

Faculty:	Education, Health and Human Sciences	Department:	Human Sciences
Lead Supervisor:	Dr. Timothy Matthews		
Project Title:	Loneliness in young adulthood: a 12-year follow up in an epidemiological, genetically-sensitive cohort study		
Project Description:	<p>Loneliness affects people of all ages, but it is now recognised to be particularly common among young adults. The objective of this PhD project is to examine the developmental trajectory of loneliness in the first decade of adulthood, its genetic and environmental influences, and its potential impact on health and functioning during this stage of life.</p> <p>The project will involve secondary analysis of data collected by the Environmental Risk (E-Risk) Longitudinal Twin Study, a nationally-representative cohort of 2,232 individuals born in England and Wales during 1994 and 1995. The project will make use of new data being collected as part of the study’s age-30 sweep, as well as earlier data collected when participants were aged 18 and 26. Advanced statistical approaches such as growth modelling and behavioural genetic analysis will be used, to leverage the study’s longitudinal and twin design.</p> <p>The successful candidate will have strong statistical skills, including experience with structural equation modelling, and a sound understanding of longitudinal and twin study methodologies. Experience with the software packages Stata, R and/or MPlus would be highly desirable.</p>		
Duration:	3 years, Full-Time Study or 6 years, Part-Time Study		
Bursary available (subject to satisfactory performance): From 01 October for the 2025-26 academic year this amount will be Year 1: (FT) £20,780 plus £2,000 London Weighting (where applicable) or pro-rata (PT) Year 2: In line with UKRI rate Year 3: In line with UKRI rate In addition, the successful candidate will receive a contribution to tuition fees equivalent to the university’s Home-student rate, currently £5,006 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.			

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"> An undergraduate (honours) degree with minimum 2:1 (or equivalent), or a Masters' degree with minimum 60% overall (or equivalent) in a relevant discipline. 	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., through an undergraduate or taught Master's dissertation) 	E
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A strong grounding in research methods and statistics 	E
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some experience or understanding of statistical modelling (e.g. structural equation modelling) 	D
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong communication skills (e.g., written, verbal, data visualisation, etc.) 	E
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An interest in, or evidenced commitment to, transparency and rigor in research (i.e., open scholarship, open data/materials, preregistration, etc.) 	E
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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An interest in, or commitment to, challenging inequalities and promoting JEDI (justice, equality, diversity and inclusion) developments, with experience negotiating these sensitively and compassionately 	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 the end of February 2026 	E
Closing date for applications:	30th October 2025
For further information contact:	Timothy Matthews (t.matthews@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. Please	

ensure that you select 'MPhil/PhD Human Sciences' from the list to ensure prompt processing of applications.

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

- **VC Scholarship Reference Number (Ref)**– included in the personal statement section
- **Personal Statement*** - outlining your motivation for applying for this PhD, and your previous research experience (e.g., as a research assistant or completing a dissertation).
- **Academic qualification certificates/transcripts***
- **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 ***
- **Your complete CV***
- **Two reference letters (one ideally from a dissertation supervisor) ***
- **Research Proposal*** Please provide a brief research proposal (maximum 1500 words) outlining how you would develop this research. Please refer to the Research Proposal structure: https://docs.gre.ac.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0022/270049/research-proposal-template.pdf
- Please ensure that you submit to the **MPhil/PhD Human Sciences** programme.

**Upload to the qualification section of the application form. Attachments must be in PDF format. You will need to submit this as 1 single PDF, to be uploaded as attachment.*

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