

## Information on Postgraduate Research Studentship:

<b>Faculty:</b> Education, Health and Human Sciences and Institute for Lifecourse Development
<b>Lead Supervisor:</b> Paul Gorczynski
<b>Project Title:</b> Exploring and understanding inclusivity of LGBTQIA+ recreational athletes in the UK

### About the Project:

Researchers, practitioners, and policy makers have shown that physical, mental, and social health research disparities exist between lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual (LGBTQIA+) populations and [others](#). Such exclusion from the research process has contributed to a health knowledge deficit for LGBTQIA+ populations and resulted in limited evidence-based interventions that address the many health inequalities that disproportionately affect these populations across the lifespan. When compared to other populations, [research](#) evidence shows that LGBTQIA+ populations experience higher rates of chronic disease (e.g., diabetes, coronary heart disease, and certain forms of cancer), mental health symptoms and disorders (e.g., major depressive disorder, anxiety, substance use, and suicide), and social health inequalities (e.g., violence, harassment, discrimination, and exclusion). Although several calls-to-action have been written to ensure that LGBTQIA+ people are included in [physical](#), [mental](#), and [social](#) health research and consulted with in the creation of LGBTQIA+ focused health interventions, such calls have not been fully addressed.

LGBTQIA+ individuals who wish to participate in sport face many [challenges](#). [Sport](#) refers to all forms of physical activity, regardless of whether participation is understood to be casual or organized. Sport also has the aim of improving physical, mental, and social health. Research shows that 82% of LGBTQIA+ individuals in Europe have witnessed or experienced homophobic, biphobic, or transphobic language in a sporting context. Additionally, 36% of LGBTQIA+ individuals have experienced some form of physical intimidation or violence in recreational or professional sport. To further complicate matters, a total of 75% of LGBTQIA+ individuals have said they faced some form of systematic and structural discrimination within their sport because of their sexual orientation and/or gender identity. As a result of such discrimination, a third of LGBTQIA+ people remain completely closeted in their sporting context and do not disclose their sexual orientation and/or gender identity. [Sport England](#) has identified that such actions have led many LGBTQIA+ individuals to feel excluded from sport, unwilling to participate in sport in the future, unable to connect meaningfully with other individuals, and profound loneliness. A strategy for recreational sport is needed to better understand: 1) the social health needs of LGBTQIA+ people, 2) what steps can be taken to foster inclusivity of LGBTQIA+ individuals, and 3) how loneliness amongst LGBTQIA+ people can be addressed. Given limited inclusion of LGBTQIA+ individuals

in physical activity, exercise, and sport research thus far, it would be very challenging to construct, let alone enact, such an inclusivity strategy.

The aim of this mixed-methods research programme is to examine and understand the social health needs of LGBTQIA+ individuals in the UK who are engaged in recreational sport.

We encourage you to discuss this opportunity and the PhD project before applying. Please contact Dr Paul Gorczynski (he/him) at [paul.gorczynski@gre.ac.uk](mailto:paul.gorczynski@gre.ac.uk) to arrange a discussion.

**Duration: 3 years Full-Time Study or 6 years Part-Time Study. Type: Self-Funded**

<b>Person Specification of Essential (E) or Desirable (D) requirements:</b>	
<b>Criteria:</b>	<b>E or D</b>
<b>Education and Training:</b>	
• 1 <sup>st</sup> Class or 2 <sup>nd</sup> 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 (e.g., Psychology, Research, Social Sciences)	<b>E</b>
• 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, unless the degree above was taught in English <b>and</b> obtained in a majority English speaking country, e.g., UK, USA, Australia, New Zealand, etc, as recognised by the UKBA.	<b>E</b>
<b>Experience &amp; Skills:</b>	
• Previous experience of undertaking research (e.g., through an undergraduate or taught Master's dissertation)	<b>E</b>
• A fair grounding in research methods and research design	<b>E</b>
• Good communication skills (e.g. verbal, written, data visualisation, etc.)	<b>E</b>
• Skills and/or practical experience with both quantitative and qualitative research	<b>D</b>
• An interest in, or evidenced commitment to, transparency and rigor in research (i.e., open scholarship, open data/materials, preregistration, etc.)	<b>D</b>
<b>Personal Attributes:</b>	
• Understands the fundamental differences between a taught degree and a research degree in terms of approach and personal discipline/motivation	<b>E</b>
• Able to, under guidance, complete independent work successfully	<b>E</b>
• An interest in, or commitment to, challenging inequalities and promoting JEDI (justice, equality, diversity and inclusion) developments, with experience negotiating these sensitively and compassionately	<b>E</b>
<b>Closing date for applications:</b> Applications are accepted all year round	
<b>For further information contact:</b> Paul Gorczynski <a href="mailto:Paul.Gorczynski@greenwich.ac.uk">Paul.Gorczynski@greenwich.ac.uk</a>	

### How to Apply:

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

Before applying, please make informal contact with a potential supervisor within the School to express your interest and discuss your proposal.

All applications **must include** the following information. Applications not containing these documents will not be considered. When you apply online, please attach a single PDF which includes the following documents:

- 1) a research proposal (approx. 1,500 words) related to the subject topic
- 2) a personal statement outlining your motivation for a PhD and previous research experience
- 3) a complete tabular CV
- 4) transcripts of all degrees
- 5) two reference letters, one ideally being from a dissertation supervisor
- 6) evidence of language proficiency (if relevant) i.e., 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.

Your personal statement should name the supervisor you had a discussion with. You can include a Gantt chart at the end of your proposal as a schedule for your PhD project (excluded from the word count). A research proposal template can be found here:

[https://docs.gre.ac.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0022/270049/research-proposal-template.pdf](https://docs.gre.ac.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0022/270049/research-proposal-template.pdf)