

| <u>Information on Postgraduate Research Scholarship –</u> <u>Ref: VCS-FES-02-25</u> | | | |
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| Faculty: | Natural Resources Institute | Department: | Livelihoods and Institutions Department |
| Lead Supervisor: | Huiyi Yang | | |
| Project Title: | Air pollution and climate extremes risks to cassava productivity | | |
| Project Description: | Elevated ozone(O ₃) and extreme high temperatures (EHT) pose significant threats to cassava productivity in Africa, a crucial crop for food security and agricultural economies. As climate warming intensifies, both O ₃ and EHT are expected to increase in frequency and severity. However, their combined impacts on cassava have yet to be thoroughly assessed through field experiments or rigorous regional/global assessments using numerical modelling tools. This project seeks to address these gaps by establishing a controlled greenhouse experiment at the NRI to simulate African climate conditions, evaluating cassava’s sensitivity to both O ₃ and the compounding effects of O ₃ and EHT. By calibrating crop physiology and phenology, developing new O ₃ dose-response functions, and parameterising heat stress, this interdisciplinary project provides a comprehensive evaluation of cassava vulnerability, production, and socioeconomic consequences under current and future climate scenarios. | | |
| Duration: | 3 years, Full-Time Study or 6 years, Part-Time Study | | |
| Bursary available (subject to satisfactory performance): Year 1: £19,237 (FT) 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 rate, currently £5,006 (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. This fee is subject to an annual increase. | | | |
| Person Specification of Essential (E) or Desirable (D) requirements: | | | |
| Criteria: | | | E or D |
| <i>Education and Training:</i> | | | |
| <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 | | | E |

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| 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. | | |
| Experience & Skills: | | |
| • Previous experience of undertaking research (e.g. undergraduate or taught master’s dissertation) | | E |
| • Background in agronomy, ecology, climate change, or a related field | | E |
| • Experience in programming, such as Python and Fortran, with knowledge of modelling | | E |
| • Experience in conducting crop experiments in a greenhouse or in the field. | | 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 October 2025 | | E |
| Closing date for applications: | midnight UTC on 1st July 2025 | |
| For further information contact: | Huiyi Yang, h.yang@gre.ac.uk | |
| <p>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.</p> <p>All applications must include the following information. Applications not containing these documents will not be considered.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scholarship Reference Number (*VCS-FES-02-25*)– 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 * <p><i>*upload to the qualification section of the application form. Attachments must be a PDF format.</i></p> <p>Before submitting your application, you are encouraged to liaise with the Lead Supervisor on the details above.</p> | | |