

Information on Postgraduate Research Scholarship - Ref: VCS-NRI-03-25			
Faculty:	FES	Department:	LID
Lead Supervisor:	Professor Valerie Nelson		
Project Title:	Entangled Coasts, Oceans and Wetlands: Exploring governance and more-than human relations		
Project Description:	<p>a) Overall Challenge</p> <p>There is a significant gap in understanding more-than-human marine, coastal, estuarine, and wetland relations in the UK and internationally. Significant sustainability and justice issues and challenges are unfolding in ocean, marine and coastal places and efforts to explore governance and societal change is needed, including questioning of hegemonic ways of knowing and valuing. Through critical, feminist, biopolitical, more-than-human and decolonial and interdisciplinary approaches (drawing from diverse disciplines such as human geography, anthropology, sociology, sustainability sciences, environmental humanities and arts) there is the opportunity to identify new ways in which people and natures can flourish in such dynamic, salty spaces, including through civic and multi-actor engagement, ethnography, and arts-based methods etc.</p>		
	<p>b) Objectives of the Research</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Advance theoretical understandings of plural and pluriversal human-ocean and coastal relations using more-than-human, feminist, decolonial, relational approaches. 2. Investigate how specific marine/coastal places understandings and ways of knowing are enacted through governance and biopolitics. 3. Explore and develop methodologies (e.g. ethnographic, participatory, arts-based, speculative) to understand multi-species justice and alternative, radical coastal futures. 4. Critically examine competing salty coastal and ocean imaginaries and colonial modernities through ethnography and qualitative methods, and explore how existing social movements and artists are seeking to challenge 5. Analyse policy processes (e.g. Ocean Decade) and governance of places and spaces in marine and coastal contexts 6. Contribute to and synergize with ongoing research projects, particularly TRACC (UK), the EU Transformative Change project (Colombia), and collaborations with the National Oceanography Centre. <p>The PhD will lead to 3 / 4 * publications and provide the student with networking opportunities via Political Ecology, Arts and Culture Research Group connections including to other researchers, social movements such as International Land Coalition, and science-policy process linkages.</p>		
Duration:	3 years, Full-Time Study or 6 years, Part-Time Study		

Bursary available (subject to satisfactory performance): VC Scholarship 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 In addition, the successful candidate will receive a contribution to cover the tuition fees equivalent to the university's home rate (UK), currently £5,006 (FT) or pro-rata (PT), for the duration of their scholarship. International applicants will need to pay the remainder of 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"> 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 <u>and</u> 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"> Some experience and skills in critical and relational social sciences and arts research 	D
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interest and some experience in more-than-human research and / or marine or riverine ecology 	D
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ethnographic, qualitative, participatory, decolonized and arts based methods skills. Experience in interdisciplinary working. 	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 provide date here January 2026 	E
Closing date for applications:	midnight UTC on: 12.11.2025
For further information contact:	v.j.nelson@gre.ac.uk (Valerie Nelson)
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-NRI-03-25)**– 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 ***

**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.