Information on Postgraduate Research Scholarship
Ref: FS-ES-04-2027-16

Faculty:	Engineering & Science	**School:**	Engineering
Lead Supervisor:	Dr Konstantinos Evangelinos		
Project Title:	ESG and Corporate Environmental Management in the Built Environment: From Disclosure to Measurable Sustainability Performance		
Project Description:	The built environment generates significant environmental, social and economic impacts and is increasingly expected to demonstrate credible Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) performance. Construction companies, developers, asset owners and facilities management organisations publish sustainability commitments, adopt environmental management systems and establish net-zero and resource-efficiency targets. An important research challenge remains: to what extent do these commitments and disclosures translate into effective management practices and measurable sustainability performance. This PhD will investigate the relationship between ESG disclosure, corporate environmental management and sustainability performance in construction and the wider built environment. It will examine the disclosure–implementation–performance gap and identify organisational, managerial and stakeholder-related factors that facilitate or inhibit the translation of ESG commitments into measurable outcomes.. The aim is to develop and validate an integrated ESG–Environmental Performance Framework for evaluating how corporate commitments and environmental management practices contribute to sustainability performance and accountability. The research will critically evaluate ESG reporting and environmental management practices; examine their relationship with measurable outcomes; investigate the influence of environmental management systems, materiality assessment, stakeholder engagement, governance and supply-chain relationships; and identify barriers and enabling factors at organisational and project levels. A mixed-methods design will combine a systematic literature review with content analysis and benchmarking of ESG/sustainability reports, environmental policies and performance indicators from selected built-environment organisations. Quantitative analysis will explore relationships between ESG/environmental-management maturity and sustainability outcomes. Interviews and/or surveys with construction, property, facilities management and sustainability professionals will investigate implementation processes and organisational practices. Organisational and project case studies will examine how corporate commitments translate into practice. The framework will be validated through engagement with academic and industry stakeholders. The project will contribute to understanding the relationships between ESG disclosure, environmental management, accountability and organisational/project performance. Relevant performance dimensions may include carbon emissions,		

	energy, waste, water and resource efficiency. The resulting framework will support assessment, benchmarking, decision-making and continuous improvement, helping organisations evaluate ESG implementation and identify performance gaps. This scholarship is awarded competitively, and all applications are carefully reviewed. While we cannot guarantee an offer, we encourage strong candidates to apply.
Duration:	3 years, full-time study 6 years, part-time study

Support available (subject to satisfactory performance):

For Home students

- A full tuition fee waiver at the Home student rate for the duration of the scholarship.

For International students

- 50% tuition fee waiver against the International student rate for the duration of the scholarship.

Important information

- Tuition fees are subject to annual review and may increase during the course of study.
- This scholarship covers tuition fees only and does not include funding for living, accommodation, or maintenance costs.

Person Specification of Essential (E) or Desirable (D) requirements:

Criteria:	**E or D**
Education and Training:	
• 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**
• 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**
• Knowledge of ESG, sustainability reporting, corporate environmental management or sustainable construction, and an interest in applying these to the built environment.	D

• Experience with qualitative and/or quantitative research methods, including interviews, surveys, content analysis or analysis of sustainability performance data.	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 5th April 2027	**E**
Closing date for applications:	**Midnight UTC on 30th November 2026**
For further information contact:	Dr Konstantinos Evangelinos — ek22@gre.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 (FS-ES-04-2027-16)**– 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, 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.