

Information on Postgraduate Research Scholarship - Ref: VCS-FEHHS-04-25			
Faculty:	Education, Health and Human Sciences	Department:	Human Sciences
Lead Supervisor:	Dr Laura Katus		
Project Title:	Sharing Tales that Teach: A Picture Book Intervention to Foster Emotion Regulation and Cognitive Development		
Project Description:	<p>This project will investigate shared picture-book reading as a mechanism to support aspects of early child development, including cognitive and emotional outcomes. The study will focus on families with young children (aged 4-5) and will explore how different approaches to book-sharing may influence both child and parent outcomes. The project will also consider contextual factors such as early life adversity.</p> <p>The research is embedded within a broader longitudinal programme and will involve the delivery of an intervention through school-based recruitment. Data collection will involve a combination of child-facing assessments, caregiver surveys, and naturalistic observations. A subset of families will take part in additional activities, including neurocognitive assessments. Data analysis will likely involve longitudinal modelling approaches.</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"> Undergraduate (honours) degree with minimum 2:1 (or equivalent), or a Master's degree with minimum 60% overall (or equivalent) in a relevant discipline (e.g., Psychology, Education, Neuroscience) 	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 	E		

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.	
Experience & Skills:	
• Demonstrable experience of working directly with children in research or applied settings (e.g., schools, nurseries, community programmes)	E
• Experience conducting quantitative research, including ethics and participant-facing procedures	E
• Demonstrated interest or prior research on executive functions, emotion regulation, or related developmental topics	E
• An interest in, or evidenced commitment to, transparency and rigor in research (i.e., open scholarship, open data/materials, preregistration, etc.)	E
• Prior use of standardised cognitive task for behavioural assessments	E
• Experience in working with or within schools	D
• Familiarity with automated experimental software (e.g., Gorilla.sc)	D
• Evidence of dissemination of research outputs (e.g., academic presentations, preprints, peer-reviewed publications)	D
Personal Attributes:	
• Self-directed and motivated, with clear understanding of the demands of a research degree	E
• Commitment to ethical research practice and safeguarding in child-facing research	E
• Ability to work independently, while engaging collaboratively with research teams and external partners (e.g., schools, families)	E
• 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:	
• 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 the end of February 2026	E
Closing date for applications:	Friday 14 November 2025
For further information contact:	Dr Laura Katus, l.katus@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 (VCS-FEHHS-04-25)**— 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.