Information on Postgraduate Research Scholarship - Ref: Eng-PhD-13-25			
Faculty:	Engineering and Science	**Department:**	School of Engineering
Lead Supervisor:	Dr Ayo Adewumi		
Project Title:	Developing a Sustainability Assessment Framework for Waterfront Regeneration Projects: A Case Study of the Medway Waterfront, United Kingdom.		
Project Description: (maximum 500 words)	**Background:** Many towns and cities are redeveloping areas along rivers and the sea that were once used for industry or shipping. These waterfront areas are often turned into places where people can live, work, relax and socialise. Because these locations are close to water and often central to the city, they bring special opportunities as well as risks. Issues such as flooding, environmental protection, access to public space and the wellbeing of local communities are especially important. There are already tools that help measure whether buildings and developments are environmentally friendly. However, these tools mainly focus on individual buildings or small sites. They do not fully consider the wider setting of waterfront areas, where land, water, people and nature interact closely. Research shows that important issues such as movement, social inclusion, public access and long-term community benefit are often overlooked. There is currently no clear and practical way to assess whether waterfront redevelopment projects are truly sustainable in a balanced and holistic way. This creates a gap between policy goals and what happens in real projects. This research responds to that gap by creating a clear and practical way to assess sustainability that is designed specifically for waterfront regeneration projects. **Aim and objectives** The aim of this research is to develop a clear and practical framework that helps decision makers assess how sustainable waterfront regeneration projects are and supports better planning choices. The objectives of the research are: • To review existing sustainability assessment approaches and explain why they are limited when applied to waterfront redevelopment • To identify the key environmental, social, economic and governance factors that matter most for sustainable waterfront regeneration • To bring these factors together into a single assessment framework designed specifically for waterfront contexts		

	• To test and refine the framework using the Medway waterfront regeneration project in southeast England • To develop a simple digital support tool that helps compare different redevelopment options based on local conditions • To provide practical guidance for planners and policymakers on how to include sustainability at an early stage of waterfront planning and decision making **Methodology:** The study adopts a mixed methods research design to examine sustainability assessment in waterfront regeneration. It begins with a systematic review of academic literature, policy documents and existing assessment frameworks to identify key themes, limitations and relevant sustainability indicators. Content analysis is used to inform the development of the proposed framework. Primary qualitative data are collected through semi structured interviews with planners, developers, local authority officers and community representatives involved in the Medway waterfront project, using purposive sampling. A Delphi technique is then applied to refine and prioritise indicators through iterative expert consultation, supporting consensus and validity. The framework is tested through an in-depth case study using document analysis, spatial assessment and stakeholder workshops. Findings are integrated through triangulation, and a digital decision support tool is developed to compare regeneration options. **Expected Impact:** This research will provide a clear and practical way to assess sustainability in waterfront regeneration projects. It will help planners, developers and policymakers make better informed decisions that balance environmental protection, economic growth and community wellbeing. The framework will support stronger and more consistent planning decisions and can be adapted for use in other river and coastal cities, helping to create healthier, more inclusive and more resilient waterfront communities. 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 or 6 years, Part-Time Study
Support available (subject to satisfactory performance): A successful Home candidate will receive: • A Full tuition fee waiver at the university Home-student rate for the specified duration of the scholarship A successful International candidate will receive: • A tuition fee waiver for 50% of the International-student rate for the specified duration of the scholarship.	

Tuition fees are subject to annual increases.

This scholarship does not include funding for living expenses.

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**
• Strong research design and analytical skills, including the ability to review existing studies, collect qualitative data and synthesise findings effectively	**E**
• Stakeholder engagement and communication skills with the ability to disseminate research findings clearly to diverse audiences	**E**
• A good understanding of sustainability and urban regeneration, particularly in waterfront development contexts, and the ability to translate policy goals into practical assessment frameworks	**E**
• Strong digital skills to design a tool that analyses and improves the environmental, economic and social outcomes of waterfront development options.	**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 15th July 2026 (offers will be withdrawn if this condition is not met)	**E**
Closing date for applications:	***midnight UTC on 20th February 2026***

For further information contact:	***Dr Ayo Adewumi – a.adewumi@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**.

All applications **must include** the following information. **Applications not containing these documents will not be considered.**

- **Scholarship Reference Number (*insert reference*)**– 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.