

<b><u>Information on Postgraduate Research Scholarship</u></b>			
<b><u>Ref: GBS-PhD-10-2026-2</u></b>			
<b>Faculty:</b>	Business	<b>Department:</b>	Management and Marketing
<b>Lead Supervisor:</b>	Dr Laura William		
<b>Project Title:</b>	Beyond Treatment: A Bio-Social Approach to Labour Market Participation among NEET Youth with Mental Health Conditions.		
<b>Project Description:</b>	<p>Health inequalities refer to the unequal distribution of health outcomes across populations, shaped by a complex interplay of social, economic, and environmental determinants. Factors such as place of residence, educational attainment, skills, family and social networks, access to nutritious food, financial security, employment conditions, and housing quality all significantly influence individual health and wellbeing (Marmot, 2005). Unequal access to these ‘building blocks’ creates disparities in life chances, and where one or more are absent, the likelihood of becoming a NEET (not in education, employment or training) increases (Rahmani et al., 2024). Within this literature, poor mental health emerges as a key determinant: adolescent behavioural problems and substance misuse have been linked to disengagement (Tayfur et al., 2022), while mood and anxiety disorders are associated with an elevated risk of NEET status (Gariépy et al., 2021). Conversely, higher levels of education and better mental health function as protective factors against labour market exclusion (Rahmani et al., 2024).</p> <p>Recent policy evidence reinforces these findings. The UK Government’s 2026 <i>Young People and Work</i> interim report identifies mental health as a central driver of rising youth inactivity, highlighting a strong and growing relationship between mental ill-health and NEET status (Milburn, 2026). Crucially, the report criticises the current NHS model as reactive, fragmented, and oriented towards treatment rather than participation. The interim report argues for a more integrated approach to addressing NEET status that connects health services with employment support systems, prioritises early intervention, and recognises labour market participation as a key component of recovery.</p> <p>In response, this research seeks to move beyond a narrowly medicalised understanding of mental health, which has traditionally dominated policy and practice. Instead, it adopts a more holistic, bio-social perspective informed by disability studies and the impairment effects model, which conceptualises disability – which encompasses mental health, as arising from the interaction between individual impairments and structural barriers within society. From this standpoint, the study will examine how improved integration between health services, Jobcentre provision, and community-based interventions—such as physical activity—can better support NEET young people with mental health conditions to re-engage</p>		

	<p>with the labour market as a primary outcome, rather than a secondary by-product.</p> <p>A particularly promising area of inquiry is the role of social prescribing. Existing research demonstrates that social prescribing can improve mental health and wellbeing through enhanced social connection and community engagement (Cooper et al., 2022). However, there remains a significant gap in the literature regarding whether such improvements translate into enhanced employability and sustained labour market participation among NEET populations.</p> <p>Accordingly, this study is guided by the following research questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does the lack of integration between health and employment services contribute to youth economic inactivity among young people with mental health conditions in the UK?</li> <li>• How does the medicalised approach to mental health shape young people's labour market participation, and what barriers limit its effectiveness?</li> <li>• What role can social prescribing play in improving employment outcomes for NEET young people with mental health conditions?</li> </ul>
<b>Duration:</b>	3 years, Full-Time Study or 6 years, Part-Time Study
<p><b>Bursary available (subject to satisfactory performance):</b>  Year 1: £23,805 (UKRI 2026-27 standard rate including London Weighting)  Year 2 &amp; 3: In line with relevant UKRI rate</p> <p>In addition, the successful candidate will receive a contribution to tuition fees equivalent to the university's Home rate for the duration of their scholarship. International applicants will need to pay the remainder tuition fee for the duration of their scholarship. The fee is subject to an annual increase.</p>	
<b>Person Specification of Essential (E) or Desirable (D) requirements:</b>	
<b>Criteria:</b>	<b>E or D</b>
<b>Education and Training:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1<sup>st</sup> Class or 2<sup>nd</sup> 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</li> </ul>	<b>E</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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 <b>and</b> obtained in a majority English speaking country, e.g. UK, USA, Australia, New Zealand, etc, as recognised by the UKBA.</li> </ul>	<b>E</b>

<b>Experience &amp; Skills:</b>		
• Previous experience of undertaking research (e.g. undergraduate or taught master's dissertation with a grade of 60% or above)		<b>E</b>
• Previous experience of writing to a high academic standard		<b>D</b>
• Understanding of ethical considerations to undertake primary data collection with a vulnerable population		<b>E</b>
• Have an understanding of the key issues affecting disabled people and NEETs in the current labour market.		<b>D</b>
<b>Personal Attributes:</b>		
• Understands the fundamental differences between a taught degree and a research degree in terms of approach and personal discipline/motivation		<b>E</b>
• Able to, under guidance, complete independent work successfully		<b>E</b>
<b>Other Requirements:</b>		
• This scholarship may require Academic Technology Approval Scheme approval for the successful candidate if from outside of the EU/EEA		<b>E</b>
• The scholarship must commence before end of <b>30 October 2026</b>		<b>E</b>
<b>Closing date for applications:</b>	<b>midnight on 4<sup>th</sup> August 2026</b>	
<b>For further information contact:</b>	<b>L.C.William@greenwich.ac.uk</b>	
<p><b>Making an application:</b>  Please read this information before making an application. Information on the application process is available at: <a href="https://www.gre.ac.uk/research/study/apply/application-process">https://www.gre.ac.uk/research/study/apply/application-process</a>. Applications need to be made online via this link. <b>No other form of application will be considered.</b></p> <p>All applications <b>must include</b> the following information. <b>Applications not containing these documents will not be considered.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Scholarship Reference Number (Ref)</b>– included in the personal statement section together with your personal statement as to why you are applying</li> <li>• <b>a CV including 2 referees *</b></li> <li>• <b>a detailed research proposal of about 1,500 words</b></li> <li>• <b>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 *</b></li> </ul> <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>		