

**School of Education and Communities (EDUCOM) Research Excellence PhD Studentships**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Qualification type:** | PhD | **Placed on:** | April 2, 2024 |
| **Location:** | UEL, London | **Closes:** | May 2, 2024 |
| **Funding for:** | Home or International |   |   |
| **Funding amount:** | Annual stipend £21,237 including tuition fee waiver  |   |   |
| **Hours:** | Full Time |   |   |

**University of East London – Research Excellence PhD Studentships**

The University of East London (UEL) invites applications from highly qualified and motivated students, for **3 Excellence PhD Studentships** starting in September 2024. The Research Excellence PhD Studentships are the premier postgraduate merit studentship at UEL and provide full tuition fees and a generous stipend.

**About the School of Education and Communities (EDUCOM)**

The School of Education and Communities (EDUCOM) stands as a leader in the field, delivering exceptional Programmes in the following areas: Global Development, Politics and Sociology (GDPS); Social & Community Work; Early Childhood & Education and Teacher Education & Training. Our commitment extends beyond academic excellence, as we actively engage in shaping the educational landscape of East London and beyond.

The school is known for its unwavering commitment to building a strong research culture. Our cutting-edge research spans the breadth of academic expertise across a wide range of topics, including early childhood education, psychosocial approach, self-care & well-being, social justice, social work & community development, refugee & migration, and SDG tracking and policy analysis. EDUCOM researchers extend their reach to international settings, conducting cross-cultural studies and comparative analyses to explore the complexities of education and community dynamics in Asia, Africa, Europe and beyond. Our researchers are members of many of UEL’s research centres, offering opportunities for inter-disciplinary and cross-school collaborations. Through collaborative partnerships and professional practice initiatives, we provide unparalleled opportunities for both our students and external collaborators to thrive.

As stewards of knowledge and advocates for positive societal change, we invite you to join us in our pursuit of excellence and impact in education and communities, as we collectively shape a brighter future for generations to come.

**About the University of East London (UEL)**

Founded in 1898, we at the University of East London (UEL) are proud to change lives through education, research, and knowledge exchange. Our 10-year strategy, Vision 2028 is to advance industry 5.0 careers-first education and provide a clear path to the jobs and opportunities of the future. We’re committed to driving diversity in the 5.0 talent pipeline, working in partnership to promote talent wherever it is found and creating a balanced, inclusive, and green future.

UEL is an innovative academic community, delivering high-quality applied research that is impact-led, intellectually stimulating, socially relevant and for public good. UEL’s research efforts are shaped by its location, East London, one of the most diverse regions in the UK undergoing rapid urban transformation that presents both challenges and opportunities for thinking and acting on the city’s future. In addition, London is at the heart of a rich global landscape and UEL is entwined into this landscape through its research engagement with areas of central and local government, science, technology, education, health, and arts.

The Research Excellence PhD Studentships are central to the University’s strategy to enhance research volume, quality and impact and part of our investment in people, culture, and environment. At UEL, PhD researchers will be supported by a community of supervisors committed to their timely progress and development as professional researchers with publishable outputs. All postgraduate research students at the University of East London benefit from a comprehensive Researcher Development Programme designed specifically for PGRs to support them to develop academic and professional skills and an understanding of key doctoral milestones. The programme consists of three key strands:

Researcher-Ready: This strand of training focuses on helping PGRs navigate the doctoral journey while developing key skills in research design, research theory, ethics, and academic writing.

Empowering Researchers: This strand of the RDP focuses on peer-to-peer mentoring, ideas sharing, wellbeing, and community.

Pioneering Researchers: This strand of training focuses on employability skills, entrepreneurship, and knowledge exchange for academic, industry, alternative career paths.

**EDUCOM Research Environment and Research Centres**

In EDUCOM, we cultivate a dynamic and collaborative atmosphere where innovation thrives, and boundaries are constantly pushed. With a strong emphasis on interdisciplinary approaches, our faculty and researchers engage in cutting-edge investigations that address pressing societal challenges. Through vibrant dialogue and mutual support, we foster a culture of intellectual curiosity and creativity, encouraging the exploration of novel ideas and methodologies. Our commitment to excellence is reflected in our rigorous standards of scholarship and the pursuit of impactful research outcomes. Furthermore, we prioritize the development of meaningful partnerships with local communities, practitioners, and policymakers, ensuring that our research is not only academically rigorous but also socially relevant and responsive to real-world needs. Together, we strive to make meaningful contributions to knowledge and create positive change in our ever-evolving world.

Within our school's vibrant research environment, our dedicated research centres serve as hubs of innovation and collaboration, driving forward our exploration of critical thematic areas.

[Centre for Social Change and Justice](https://uel.ac.uk/our-research/research-institutes-centres-groups/centre-social-change-justice) is a platform for critical social praxis and action, addressing the current state of social justice and its communication.

[Centre for Wellbeing, Community, and Inclusion](https://uel.ac.uk/our-research/research-institutes-centres-groups/centre-wellbeing-community-inclusion-cwci) aims to promote research collaborations among academics, practitioners, and community groups to enhance physical and mental health, sense of belonging, and overall wellbeing.

[Centre for Migration, Refugees and Belonging (CMRB)](https://uel.ac.uk/our-research/research-institutes-centres-groups/centre-research-migration-refugees-belonging) aims to improve comprehension of migration, refugees, and belonging by promoting interdisciplinary dialogue and innovative thinking among academics, practitioners, activists, and migrants.

Through interdisciplinary engagement and rigorous inquiry, our research centres serve as catalysts for transformative change, facilitating dialogue, generating impactful insights, and forging connections between academia and the broader community. With a shared mission to advance knowledge and foster positive social impact, our research centres embody our school's ethos of excellence, innovation, and engagement. Together, we strive to address complex societal challenges and pave the way towards a more equitable, sustainable, and inclusive future.

**Thematic Research Areas**

We are excited to invite applications from prospective researchers interested in exploring a range of impactful research areas within our school. Our faculty members are equipped to provide supervision and support in these thematic areas, ensuring a conducive environment for rigorous inquiry and scholarly development. These research areas are closely aligned with our established research centres or groups, fostering collaboration and synergy across disciplines. Prospective applicants are encouraged to consider the following research areas:

* **Early Childhood Education:** Exploring innovative approaches to early childhood education, including pedagogical strategies, curriculum development, and the impact of early interventions on children's development and learning outcomes.
* **Education and Wellbeing:** Investigating the intersections between education, psychosocial approaches and wellbeing, exploring factors that influence student wellbeing, mental health support systems in educational settings, and the role of education in promoting holistic development and flourishing.
* **Social Justice, Equality, and Diversity:** Investigating issues related to social justice, equality, and diversity, with a focus on addressing systemic inequalities and promoting inclusive practices within diverse communities.
* **Communities and Community Development:** Examining processes of community engagement, empowerment, and social change, with an emphasis on fostering resilient and sustainable communities through collaborative initiatives and participatory approaches.
* **Sustainability and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):** Researching sustainable practices and policies that contribute to the achievement of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, spanning environmental conservation, social equity, economic development, and global partnerships.
* **Digital Inequalities:** Examining disparities in access to digital technologies, digital literacy, and the impact of digital inequalities on social inclusion, educational attainment, and economic opportunities, with a focus on addressing digital divides and fostering digital equity.

Applicants are encouraged to explore these research areas in alignment with our research centres or groups, leveraging the expertise and resources available within our academic community to advance knowledge and make meaningful contributions to their respective fields.

**Funding**

The studentship is for a period of three years and offers an annual stipend of £21,237 along with a tuition fee waiver and a training bursary of £2,000.

**Additional Information**

For candidates interested in learning more about our school-specific research expertise and opportunities for supervision, please contact ***Sanzida Akter*** ***(s.akter@uel.ac.uk)***

**Eligibility criteria:**

* ***Applicants must have at least 2:1 degree in Social Sciences, Education, or any cognate area (or an overseas qualification that can be deemed equivalent), and***
* ***Masters degree (Merit) in a relevant field (or an overseas qualification that can be deemed equivalent).***
* ***Where English is not the applicants first language, a minimum IELTS Academic score of 7.0 overall with a minimum of 6.5 in all components is required. Such assessment of English language competence must normally have been undertaken no more than two years prior to application.***

**How to apply:**

**Please email the following as ONE PDF document to** **educomschooloffice@uel.ac.uk**

* Research proposal which must include a research question, your proposed methodology and preliminary timeline (not more than 1500 words). Please see ***Appendix A: Guide for proposals***below.
* Personal statement including information about why you wish to pursue this research and what you will contribute to the research environment within the school (not more than 300 words).
* Short CV highlighting your recent experience and skills.

In addition, you must also provide **in the same email** the following supporting documentation:

* Your degree certificates and transcripts and proof of English language proficiency if relevant.
* Details of two referees. At least one referee must be an academic referee from the institution that conferred your highest degree.

Informal enquiries about the studentships should be addressed in the first instance to ***Sanzida Akter (s.akter@uel.ac.uk).***

The closing date for application is **May 2, 2024**. Interviews will take place during the week commencing **May 20, 2024**. If you are successful at the interview and offered a studentship you will be directed to complete the UEL application process.

**Appendix A: Guide for proposals**

**PhD Proposal**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Aim** | What are you doing? | Summarise the aims and objectives of your PhD project  |
| **Context** | Why are you doing this?  | Think about why this topic matters and contextualise it.  |
| **Literature Review**  | What is the gap in the literature  | Summarise the literature on the topic. Think about what has been written before, where the gaps are, and what has not been addressed. What will your project do that hasn’t been done before?  |
| **Methodology** | How will you conduct your research? | Summarise your research methodology and methods: qualitative, quantitative, mixed methods etc |
| **Impact**  | Why does this research matter? What is the potential contribution to knowledge? | Summarise why people should care about your research and what the potential contribution to knowledge is.  |
| **Structure**  | What structure will your thesis take? | Create a proposed chapter structure for your thesis eg: Chapter 1: Introduction Chapter 2: Literature Review Chapter 3: Methodology Chapter 4: Data Chapter 5: Analysis of the Data Chapter 6: Significance of the data Chapter 7: Conclusion  |
| **Conclusion**  | Summary of proposal | Briefly summarise what your research is doing and why it matters.  |
| **Bibliography** | List of literature  | Create a bibliography of works referred to in your literature review and other texts that have influenced the thesis proposal  |
| **Timeline**  | What stages of the thesis will you aim to complete at which points?  | Create a proposed timeline through to completion (3-4 years full time) |
| **Your research experience** | How has your educational experience so far prepared you to undertake a PhD?  | Summarise your education up to this point and the skills you have learnt along the way. Explain how you will use these skills in your PhD.  |
| **Your reason for applying to UEL** | Why are you applying to UEL?  | Summarise your choice of UEL and this research programme. How does the research undertaken by UEL support your research aims? |

-----------------------