**Research Excellence PhD Studentships**

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| **Qualification type:** | PhD | **Placed on:** | 15/04/24 |
| **Location:** | UEL, London | **Closes:** |  01/05/24 |
| **Funding for:** | Home or International |   |   |
| **Funding amount:** | £21,237 (2024/25) plus 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 two Research 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.

Being in Europe's largest regeneration area, UEL's research benefits from the rich surroundings and connections with the local community. At the University of East London (UEL), 92% of research is recognised as world-leading, internationally excellent, or internationally recognised (REF 2021). The Institute of Connected Communities is one of the three research institutes at UEL, with its research strongly end-user-focused and embedded in a community development and co-production philosophy. We work with governments and practitioners to ensure that our research impacts policy and practice worldwide. Our research spans two thematic areas: online harm and cybercrime and community health and wellbeing. Under each, there are different topic areas.

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.

**About the Studentship**

Applications are invited for two fully funded, full-time, three-year PhD studentships at the Institute of Connected Communities, University of East London (Stratford Campus), to start in September 2024. We are seeking motivated individuals to submit proposals, between 1000 and 1500 words, with an accompanying expression of interest form, to one of the following work streams:

Child online harms and youth cybercrime: ICC has a strong focus on child online harms and youth cybercrime. Our research has been funded by the European Commission, NGOs, the UK and international governments, and the UKRI. We have conducted research exploring the human and technical drivers of cybercrime and the impact of online harm on children and young people in the UK and internationally. We welcome proposals in these broad areas. You will be working with Professor Julia Davidson, OBE, one of the UK's foremost experts on policy and practice in the areas of CSA, CSE, and online harms.

Social prescribing: ICC has been leading research, evaluation, and training in social prescribing at local, regional, national, and international levels for the last decade, with key contributions to the development of social prescribing in the UK through NHS guidance, policy development, journal, and book publications. Dr. Marcello Bertotti is one of the pioneers of social prescribing and is currently expanding the field to include, but not be limited to, social prescribing for children and young people, social prescribing models in secondary care (e.g., hospitals), digital social prescribing (online delivery of social prescribing activities), the development of social prescribing models internationally, social prescribing and loneliness/social isolation, and social prescribing for vulnerable groups.

Social justice: If you are passionate about addressing health equity, dismantling structural inequalities, and promoting social justice, the ICC offers you an excellent opportunity to engage in impactful research that influences public spending and service delivery and to contribute to shaping policies and practices that promote equity and social justice. Dr Darren Sharpe leads the Masters programme on social justice, and ICC Evaluation Unit.

**Funding**

The studentship is for a period of three years including fees and an annual stipend of £21,237 (2024/2025), plus a training bursary of £2,000. The candidate will be expected to complete the full application and admissions process to in September 2024.

**Eligibility criteria**

* ***Applicants must have at least an upper second (2:1) Honours degree from a UK Higher Education Institution 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.***

**Additional Information**

Our strap line “Research that matters” tells everything about us. From working with some of the poorest, most marginalised and mobile communities in the UK to promote health and reduce inequalities, to working closely with the UK and international governments, safety tech industry, NGOs and charities in the online harms and cybercrime arenas, we use cutting-edge, evidence-based approaches to produce high-quality research that directly influences policy and practice, and that is always people-led and always focused on impact.

You can find more about us at [Institute for Connected Communities (ICC) | University of East London (uel.ac.uk)](https://uel.ac.uk/our-research/institute-connected-communities-icc)

Informal enquiries about the studentships should be addressed in the first instance to  infoicc@uel.ac.uk

The closing date for expression of interests is 01/05/24. Interviews will take place during the week commencing 6th May 2024. If you are successful at interview and offered a studentship you will be directed to complete the UEL application process.