**Research Excellence PhD Fee Waiver Studentships**

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| **Qualification type:** | PhD | **Placed on:** | 15 August 2024 |
| **Location:** | University of East London (UEL), London | **Closes:** |  9 September 2024 |
| **Funding for:** | Home or International |   |   |
| **Funding amount:** | Full waiver of tuition fees |   |   |
| **Hours:** | Full Time |   |   |

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

The University of East London (UEL) invites applications from highly qualified and motivated students, for **2** Research Excellence PhD Studentships fully waiving tuition fees starting in **November 2024 (Please Note: due to visa and ATAS requirements, successful international applicants may need to commence their PhD in January 2025).**

The key research areas are ESG Data Analysis, Sustainable Development, Open Finance, and Healthcare Data Management.

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 Fee Waiver Studentships are central to the University’s strategy to enhance the research volume, quality and impact and part of our investment in research 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.

The School of Architecture, Computing and Engineering (ACE) has research groups such as Smart City, Resilient Built Environment, Culture and Environment, Intelligent Technologies, Research Enhanced Learning & Teaching, and Resilient Materials and Structure. It also has close collaboration with other research Institutes/Centres in UEL such as the Centre for Fintech, Centre for Inclusion and Creative Practice, and AI & Smart Cities Centre of Excellence.

The candidates are advised to carefully read the following **2 PhD proposals** and their corresponding requirements, then apply for (**only**) **one** of them based on their interests and expertise:

1. **Title:** The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Real-Time ESG Data Collection and Analysis

Description:

There is a global and urgent need to devise robust investment strategies and corporate practices to develop sustainable development and ethical business conduct. Currently, there are numerous gaps in ESG data collection and evaluation, and this research project aims to address those gaps by leveraging state-of-the-art Machine Learning algorithms. This project will involve data collection and preparation from diverse sources followed by the analysis and development of various ML algorithms. Moreover, the project will entail the evaluation and optimisation of the different algorithms. Furthermore, surveys and interviews will be conducted for the impact assessment and reporting. This project will be supervised by a strong academic team as well as an advisory team of industry partners.

Candidate Requirements

Essential:

• Research experience in Machine Learning tools, technologies, and frameworks.

• Competence in design, development, and evaluation of Machine Learning models.

• Good programming and problem-solving skills.

Desirable:

• Proficiency in Python and R.

* Some peer-reviewed conference or journal publications in the field of Computer Science/Artificial Intelligence/Fintech and involvement in relevant research projects.

• Experience in multidisciplinary research collaborations.

1. **Title:** Open Finance Foundation Model in Healthcare

Description:

Engage in pioneering research to develop a data-centric Open Finance Foundation Model for the healthcare sector. This project aims to address key challenges such as privacy concerns and regulatory compliance. By leveraging advanced AI techniques, the model seeks to improve patient care and operational efficiency while ensuring secure data sharing and financial inclusivity.

Candidate Requirements:

Essential:

* Research and working experience in fintech or healthcare.
* Proficiency in AI techniques and data analytics.
* Competence with software like Python, and relevant AI tools.

Desirable:

* Expertise in privacy-preserving technologies.
* Experience in interdisciplinary research.
* Familiarity with the UK research environment.

**About the Studentship:**

**Funding**

The studentship is for a period of three years and covers the Home or International student tuition fee only.

**Minimum entry requirements**

Unless otherwise stated within each of the above-mentioned PhD proposals, the minimum entry requirements are, home and international applicants must have a first or upper-second-class honours degree from a higher education institution in the UK or an acceptable equivalent qualification. International applicants must have a valid IELTS Academic test certificate (or equivalent) with an overall minimum score of 6.5 and no score below 6.0 issued in the last 2 years by an approved test centre.

**Informal Enquiries**

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

**How to apply**

Identify one (and only one) of the research topics from the list of 2 PhD proposals provided above. Then, email the following items to f.jafari@uel.ac.uk

* A 1-page personal statement including information on alignment to specific PhD proposal, outlining how you meet the specific criteria listed for that PhD proposal and how you feel you could contribute to the research environment within the school.
* A 1-page CV.
* Copies of the degree certificates and transcripts and proof of English language proficiency if relevant.
* Two referees as part of your application. At least one referee must be an academic referee from the institution that conferred your highest degree.

The closing date for expression of interest is 9 Sept. 2024. Interviews will take place during 18-20 Sept. 2024. If you are successful at the interview and offered a studentship, you will be directed to complete the UEL application process.