

**Information on Postgraduate Research Scholarship - Ref:VCS-FBUS-06-22**

<b>Faculty:</b>	Business	<b>School:</b>	Accounting, Finance and Economics
<b>Lead Supervisor:</b>	Robert Calvert Jump		
<b>Project Title:</b>	Nowcasting the UK economy		
<b>Project Description: (500 words)</b>	<p>This project is an exciting opportunity to undertake funded PhD research while collaborating with Autonomy: an up-and-coming, highly innovative thinktank.</p> <p>The project will focus on nowcasting the UK economy. For some time, a lack of real-time information has been identified as a significant constraint on policymaking in this country, with many datasets only available with a lag of 3 months or more.</p> <p>To take one example, the only dataset that the current government could use to allocate local authorities to its High Streets Task Force was the 2019 Index of Multiple Deprivation. But this dataset relies on deprivation indicators dating from 2017 or earlier. In other words, councils are being allocated to place-based policies in 2022 based on information that is at least 5 years' out of date.</p> <p>Meanwhile, the Covid-19 lockdowns in the UK during 2020 and 2021 significantly reduced the capacity of the Office of National Statistics to measure the economy. Labour market measurement via surveys that rely heavily on face-to-face interviews, such as the Labour Force Survey, were particularly badly affected.</p> <p>Clearly, therefore, there is a need for high quality, real-time information on the UK economy to assist in the formation of economic policy, and this PhD project will fill this gap. Working with both the supervisory team and researchers from Autonomy, the successful candidate will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use labour market information from online sources, gathered using Autonomy's web scraping expertise, to produce the first study of nowcasting UK sub-regional labour markets</li> <li>• Use contemporaneous economic and social information from online sources, gathered using Autonomy's web scraping expertise, to produce the first study of nowcasting UK sub-regional deprivation</li> </ul> <p>The first avenue of inquiry will build on the existing academic literature on nowcasting regional GDP in the UK. The second avenue of inquiry will build on the Annual Deprivation Index, which is an ongoing collaboration between Autonomy and the lead supervisor. Both avenues of inquiry will explore 'classic' nowcasting techniques, including mixed data sampling</p>		

	<p>models, factor models, and bridge equations, as well as more recently developed 'big data' techniques, including penalised regression and regression trees, boosting, and genetic algorithms.</p> <p>As well as working in a vibrant, progressive academic environment at the University of Greenwich, the successful candidate will also have the opportunity to work at the Autonomy offices for part of the week. Opportunities to contribute to cutting edge policy work will be part and parcel of this scholarship, as well as attending summer schools and conferences.</p> <p>The successful candidate will have a background in economics or a cognate discipline, with a strong quantitative focus. They will be comfortable with programming languages such as Python, and statistical analysis in Stata or R. They will be committed to the idea that careful empirical analysis can contribute to making the world a better place.</p>
<b>Duration:</b>	3 years, Full-Time Study
<p><b>Bursary available (subject to satisfactory performance):</b>  Year 1: £17,668 (FT) Year 2: In line with UKRI rate Year 3: In line with UKRI rate</p> <p>In addition, the successful candidate will receive a contribution to tuition fees equivalent to the university's home rate, currently £4,596 (FT) or pro-rata (PT), for the duration of their scholarship. International applicants will need to pay the remainder tuition fee for the duration of their scholarship.</p> <p>This 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 in economics, sociology, statistics, or a cognate discipline</li> </ul>	<b>E</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Taught master's degree with a minimum average of 60% in all areas of assessment (UK or UK equivalent) in economics, sociology, statistics, or a cognate discipline</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)	E
• Strong background in statistics/econometrics	E
• Proficient in Python	E
• Proficient in Stata and/or R	E
<b>Personal Attributes:</b>	
• 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
• Committed to the idea that careful empirical analysis can contribute to making the world a better place	E
<b>Other Requirements:</b>	
• 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 on or before 31 <sup>st</sup> July 2023	E
<b>Closing date for applications:</b>	<b>midnight UTC on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2023</b>
<b>For further information contact:</b>	Robert Calvert Jump: <a href="mailto:r.g.calvertjump@greenwich.ac.uk">r.g.calvertjump@greenwich.ac.uk</a>
<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>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> <p><i>Interview for the scholarship is on 16 June (Friday) 2023.</i></p>	