

Information on Postgraduate Research Scholarship - Ref: VCS-EH-03-19

Faculty: Education and Health

Department: Psychology, Social Work & Counselling

Lead Supervisor: Dr. Trevor Thompson

Project Title: Comparative efficacy and tolerability of pharmaceutical and non-pharmaceutical interventions for the treatment of pain in older adults

Project Description: Millions of people around the world live with persistent pain, and this can lead to depression, impaired sleep, restriction of social activities and a generally poor quality of life. Successfully treating pain is often a challenge, and this is exacerbated in older adults who experience more adverse reactions to pain medication and have fewer treatment options due to contraindications of pain medicine with other age-related conditions and the medications used to treat these conditions. While non-pharmaceutical interventions might provide a safer means of treating pain, there is a limited understanding of their effectiveness.

The goal of the PhD studentship is to determine the most effective treatments for pain in older adults by synthesising the evidence from trials of pharmaceutical and non-pharmaceutical interventions in older adults. Network meta-analysis of secondary data will be used to evaluate and rank the efficacy and tolerability of the different interventions.

The student will conduct their research under the supervision of Dr Trevor Thompson within the Centre for the Management of Aging and Chronic Health problems.

Duration: 3 years, Full-Time Study

Bursary available (subject to satisfactory performance):

Year 1: £15,009

Year 2: In line with RCUK rate

Year 3: In line with RCUK rate

In addition, the successful candidate will receive a contribution to tuition fees equivalent to the university's Home/EU rate for the duration of their scholarship. International applicants will need to pay the remainder tuition fee for the duration of their scholarship. This fee is subject to an annual increase.

Person Specification of Essential (E) or Desirable (D) requirements:	
Criteria:	E or D
Education and Training:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1st Class or 2nd 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 	E
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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, unless the degree above was taught in English and obtained in a majority English speaking country, e.g. UK, USA, Australia, New Zealand, etc, as recognised by the UKBA. 	E
Experience & Skills:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Previous experience of undertaking research (e.g. undergraduate or taught masters dissertation) 	E
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good understanding of research design and statistics 	E
Personal Attributes:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understands the fundamental differences between a taught degree and a research degree in terms of approach and personal discipline/motivation 	E
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Able to, under guidance, complete independent work successfully 	E
Other Requirements:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This scholarship may require Academic Technology Approval Scheme approval for the successful candidate if from outside of the EU/EEA 	E
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A PhD project research proposal that is related to the research area 	D

Closing date for applications: *midnight UTC on 16th September 2019*

For further information contact: Dr Trevor Thompson

E-mail: t.thompson@gre.ac.uk

Making an application:

Please read this information before making an application. Information on the application process is available at: <https://www.gre.ac.uk/research/study/apply/application-process>. Applications need to be made online via this link. **No other form of application will be considered.**

All applications **must include** the following information. **Applications not containing these documents will not be considered.**

- **Scholarship Reference Number (Ref)**– included in the personal statement section together with your personal statement as to why you are applying
- **a CV including 2 referees ***
- **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 ***

**upload to the qualification section of the application form. Attachments must be a PDF format.*

Before submitting your application you are encouraged to liaise with the Lead Supervisor on the details above.