

<b><u>Information on Postgraduate Research Scholarship –</u></b>	
<b><u>Ref: VCS-FES-NRI-04-23</u></b>	
<b>Faculty: Engineering and Science</b>	<b>Department: LID, NRI</b>
<b>Lead Supervisor: June Po</b>	
<b>Project Title:</b> Decolonising the pathways between soil science agricultural policy: An exploration of the spatial-temporal linkages between historical soil and land use appraisals and development of agricultural policies in Caribbean Small Island Developing States	
<p><b>Project Description:</b></p> <p>Soil is vital to life and efforts to have it assessed and mapped are a critical part of natural resource use. In the Commonwealth, British scientists have led soil and land use evaluations since the 1950s. They used maps, soil surveys, and aerial photos to provide valuable information to the colonial government, which informed agricultural, forestry, conservation decisions and supported policy decisions<sup>1</sup>. While newly independent states have pushed to modernise agricultural systems. Policy inertia has been associated with limited economic, technological and social transformation. As a result, some legacies of structural injustice from colonial plantation agriculture, resource extraction, and transatlantic slave trade remain entrenched in everyday lives. Poverty, nutrition insecurity, environmental degradation, and social inequities persist and how soil surveys and other evidence-based policies are contributing to the status quo is not well understood. This project aims to critically examine how historical soil and land use appraisals contributed to the development of key agricultural policies from the 1950s to present and lessons learned in Latin America and the Caribbean or west Africa.</p> <p>In this PhD project you will use various approaches including diverse value of nature and ethics of care to i) explore the relationship between soil and land evaluations to key agricultural policies by systematically reviewing archival data from the Natural Resources Institute, and comparing publicly available policy data of two countries in Latin America and Caribbean. You will ii) explore the integration of historical soil maps and aerial photos and their interpretations into contemporary remote sensing databases for agricultural development using Geographic Information System software e.g. ArcGIS. You will consolidate historical documentation in order to examine a) the changes in soil survey reporting from 1950 to present and b) the changes in land use and agricultural development based on recommendations over the time period. The analysis will contribute to the development of an interactive map, tracing the various technical studies, recommendations, and policy changes across time and space. iii) Lastly, you will compare agricultural policies in the period following independence to identify potential differences in agricultural policies with high or low efforts towards decolonisation of agricultural sciences. You should have an aptitude and experience in qualitative research and inter- or trans-disciplinary approaches to research, with some experience in topics including but not limited to: soil surveys, archival methods, history, agroecology, political ecology, human geography, political science, decolonisation, social-ecological systems, or sustainability.</p> <p>Links to supervisor's profiles can be found below:</p> <p>Dr Arlette Saint Ville <a href="https://uwischolar.sta.uwi.edu/scholar/3698c50a-fb5e-32e2-9649-ba34be4dd5ea">https://uwischolar.sta.uwi.edu/scholar/3698c50a-fb5e-32e2-9649-ba34be4dd5ea</a></p> <p>Dr Marcos Paradelo Perez <a href="http://www.nri.org/people/perez-paradelo-marcos">www.nri.org/people/perez-paradelo-marcos</a></p>	

Dr June Po [www.nri.org/people/po-june](http://www.nri.org/people/po-june)

**APPLICATION PROCEDURE:**

Please visit this page for full application information: How to apply | <https://www.gre.ac.uk/research/study/application-process>

This opportunity is open to UK and International students.

**References**

1 Makin, Bennett, et al. 2006. Developing Countries: Evaluation of Land Potential. The Work of LRD, 1956-2001. Natural Resources Institute Archive.

**Duration:** 3 years, Full-Time Study or 6 years, Part-Time Study

**Bursary available (subject to satisfactory performance):**

Year 1: £18,622 (FT) or pro-rata (PT) Year 2: In line with UKRI rate Year 3: In line with UKRI rate

In addition, the successful candidate will receive a contribution to tuition fees equivalent to the university's Home rate, currently £4,712 (FT) or pro-rata (PT), for the duration of their scholarship. International applicants will be exempted from paying the remainder international 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:**

<b>Criteria:</b>	<b>E or D</b>
<b>Education and Training:</b>	
1 <sup>st</sup> Class or 2 <sup>nd</sup> 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	<b>E</b>
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.	<b>E</b>
<b>Experience &amp; Skills:</b>	
Previous experience of undertaking field research (e.g. undergraduate or taught Masters dissertation)	<b>E</b>
Experience with archival research	<b>E</b>
Experience of mixed (qualitative and quantitative) research methodologies	<b>E</b>
Knowledge of GIS software, remote sensing, air photo interpretation and use of maps	<b>E</b>
Knowledge of statistical packages (SPSS, R, or STATA), and/or database construction and management	<b>E</b>
Experience with map materials	<b>D</b>
Knowledge/experience of agricultural economics	<b>D</b>

Knowledge/experience of decolonisation literature	<b>D</b>
<b>Personal Attributes:</b>	
Understands the fundamental differences between a taught degree and a research degree in terms of approach and personal discipline/motivation	<b>E</b>
Able to, under guidance, complete independent work successfully	<b>E</b>
Demonstrable interest in and enthusiasm for decolonisation issues	<b>E</b>
<b>Other Requirements</b>	
This scholarship may require Academic Technology Approval Scheme approval for the successful candidate if from outside of the EU/EEA	<b>E</b>
The scholarship must commence by October 1 <sup>st</sup> 2024	<b>E</b>

### **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.**

- In the first part of the application select either of the following: **Development Studies (MPhil/PhD);**
- **Scholarship Reference Number (VCS-FES-NRI-04-23)**– included in the personal statement section together with your personal statement as to why you are applying
- **a CV including 2 referees \***
- **a short proposal on how you would address the research topic**
- **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.

**Closing date for applications: UTC on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

**For further information contact: Dr June Po E-mail: [j.y.t.po@gre.ac.uk](mailto:j.y.t.po@gre.ac.uk)**