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| **Information on Postgraduate Research Scholarship - Ref: VCS-FLAS-04-23** |
| **Faculty:** | FLAS | https://www.gre.ac.uk/__data/assets/image/0007/1367179/UoG_RGB.jpg**Department:** | School of Stage and Screen |
| **Lead Supervisor:**  | Dr Emma Margetson |
| **Project Title:**  | The neuroaesthetics of immersive sounds – neurochemical profiling and neurophysiological characterization  |
| **Project Description:** | This interdisciplinary PhD scholarship (Vice Chancellor Scholarship) aims to elucidate neurochemical dynamics and mechanisms underlying the aesthetic emotions elicited by exposure to different immersive sound scenarios.    There is a substantial amount of research into neural and biochemical mechanisms underlying perceptual and cognitive musical processes, driving the activity of higher limbic and cortical networks into various emotional states and generating aesthetic feelings. However, there remains, a significant unexplored terrain about the specific characteristics of music directly linked to aesthetic experiences. Likewise, little is known about the mechanism of modulatory effect of the context, environment or the source of the music.    We are looking for a PhD candidate with cross-disciplinary knowledge and experience in neuroscience and spatial sound (musical) experiences, to undertake a research project into the neural mechanisms responsible for processing immersive soundscapes, to improve our understanding of the mechanisms and dynamics of how aesthetic encounters are processed in the brain.  The results of our experiments should yield important insights into the neurobiology and mechanisms of aesthetic experiences, providing more quantitative means for improving self-connection, creativity, prosocial behaviours and cognitive flexibility, leading to better mental health.    Working with a supervisory team across the SOUND/IMAGE Research Centre and the Centre for Organized and Functional Molecules FES, this cross-disciplinary team will ensure the required skills in spatiality and creativity, molecular and cellular neurobiology with analysis of biomarkers, and neuroimaging for this interdisciplinary research project.   The focus of this project will feed into and complement ongoing research activities in the SOUND/IMAGE Research Centre, building upon the AHRC infrastructure investment in SHIFT (Shared Hub for Immersive Future Technologies), utilising and providing an additional new strand in the sharing of spatial and immersive experiences. The facilities and equipment which will be used as part of this research project may include:   * Spatial Audio Studio and VR Lab (a controlled listening environment utilising technologies such as Higher Order Ambisonics, Dolby Atmos, Auro 3D, DTS-X) – a system of 32.4 Genelec 8331 loudspeakers
* Digital Immersive Theatre – offering 360 degree visuals and sound
* Loudspeaker Orchestra (range of Genelec loudspeakers which can be set up in different spatial formats in a required setting)
* IKO Loudspeaker – A loudspeaker of twenty speakers to project Higher Order Ambisonic sound spaces
* State-of-the-art analytical laboratories and research facilities for quantitative biochemistry, molecular biology and sensing
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| **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 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:*** |
| * 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** |
| * 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 **and** obtained in a majority English speaking country, e.g. UK, USA, Australia, New Zealand, etc, as recognised by the UKBA.
 | **E** |
| ***Experience & Skills:*** |  |
| * Previous experience of undertaking research (e.g. undergraduate or taught master’s dissertation)
 | **E** |
| * Prior research in spatial and immersive technologies
 | **D** |
| * High levels of competence in working with sound: recording, editing, composition & sound design.
 | **D** |
| ***Personal Attributes:*** |
| * 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** |
| ***Other Requirements:*** |
| * 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 before 23 September 2024
 | **E** |
| **Closing date for applications:** | Midnight UTC on 1 April 2024 |
| **For further information contact:** | Emma Margetson at E.M.Margetson@gre.ac.uk |
| **Making an application:**Please read this information before making an application. Information on the application process is available [here](https://www.gre.ac.uk/research/study/apply/application-process).Applications need to be made for programme **P14282 - PhD - MUSIC AND SOUND ARTS (MPhil/PhD)** via this [link](https://www.gre.ac.uk/research/study/application-process). **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** **(**VCS-FLAS-04-23) 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**\*
* A detailed **research proposal\*** of about 1,500 words. You can find information on what to include in a research proposal in this [short video.](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DC0uEmYnhE4&ab_channel=UniversityofGreenwichResearchSpace)

\**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. |