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## THE POST

**College/Service:** [University of Exeter Medical School](#)

**Post:** **Postdoctoral Research Associate**

**Reference No:** **P60461**

**Grade:** **E**

**Reporting To:** **Dr Rebecca Lovell**

The above full time, fixed term post is available immediately in the European Centre for Environment and Human Health (ECEHH; [www.ecehh.org](http://www.ecehh.org)) of the University of Exeter Medical School. This 1 year (12month) post will contribute to the Innovate UK funded **Urban Greenspace Valuation Toolkit** project, a collaboration between Vivid Economics (lead partner), Barton Willmore, and the University of Exeter.

### **Job Description**

#### **Main purpose of the job:**

This post will involve evidence synthesis, scoping and assessment of secondary data availability, preparation of an application for ethical approval, and the writing of reports and papers. The successful candidate will work closely with Dr Rebecca Lovell (Research Fellow in Biodiversity and Health) and a PDRF/PDRA who will undertake secondary data analyses.

The aims of the project are to build a web-based greenspace valuation tool. The tool will be a comprehensive toolkit that enables land owners and/or planners to understand how spaces are used, their benefits and their full socio-economic value. The tool will inform business investment and policy decisions and will be designed to meet the needs of the different users of the tool. The project will learn from and integrate existing planning tools. The tool will be built on the syntheses of academic research and novel analysis of relevant datasets. The tool development will incorporate new location-specific information on the type, spatial configuration and uses of urban greenspaces, taking account of the socioeconomic characteristics of users and surrounding communities.

This role will support the development of the tool through the collation and synthesis of existing health, social and environmental evidence. The post holder would also contribute to the project through the identification of suitable secondary datasets and data sources.

The role is based in the European Centre for Environment and Human Health (ECEHH), a research centre of the University of Exeter Medical School and an internationally leading research institution investigating the linkages between environments and health and wellbeing. The overall project is led by Vivid Economics, a consultancy who advise on critical and complex policy and commercial questions facing clients around the world. The project team also includes Barton Willmore, the UK's largest independent, integrated planning and design consultancy.

The post holder will join a multi-disciplinary project team which includes individuals with expertise in sociology, psychology, epidemiology, health geography, and environmental/health economics. The post is based in the European Centre for Environment and Human Health on the Truro Campus (Cornwall, UK) of the University of Exeter Medical School. The post holder will be expected to collaborate with colleagues at the partner organisations; Vivid Economics and Barton Willmore. The project team will also work with three high profile

end users: 1) Peabody Trust: Regeneration project with existing assets (Thamesmead); 2) Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC): Megaproject with significant newbuild assets; and 3) Greater London Authority (GLA): A Local Authority. The post will involve some travel to these organisations (predominantly London).

Salary for this appointment will be at Spine Point E26 (£28,936) per annum (University of Exeter). The entry point on the pay scale will be determined by experience, research activities, publications and grant income and will be clarified following interview.

This post is subject to funding confirmation.

### **Main duties and accountabilities:**

Ideally the candidate will have or be near completing a PhD, or will have appropriate research experience in a relevant subject including, but not limited to; health research, economics, sociology, psychology, geography or equivalent research experience and knowledge. Candidates will ideally have some quantitative skills. Demonstrable knowledge of, including publications in, the domain of environment and human health is desirable.

The candidate must also have excellent organisational and time management skills with meticulous attention to detail, and good verbal and written communications skills. In addition you must have the ability to work well within a team.

This job description summarises the main duties and accountabilities of the post and is not comprehensive: the post-holder may be required to undertake other duties of similar level and responsibility. The typical person specification for an E-grade PDRA at the University of Exeter is available at <http://www.exeter.ac.uk/staff/exeteracademic/yourcareer/research/>

### **Main duties and accountabilities:**

1. To undertake and support research as appropriate to the field of study including:
  - Writing up research work for publication;
  - Making presentations at national and international conferences and similar events;
  - Dealing with problems which may affect the achievement of research objectives and deadlines;
  - Analysing and interpreting the results of own research and generating original ideas based on outcomes;
  - Using new research techniques and methods;
  - Using initiative and creativity to identify areas for research, developing new research methods and extending the research portfolio;
  - Using creativity to analyse and interpret research data and draw conclusions on the outcomes.
2. To contribute to teaching and to be involved in the assessment of student knowledge including assisting in the supervision of student projects and in the development of student research skills.
3. To work in collaboration with colleagues as appropriate to the field of study including:
  - Contributing to collaborative decision making within the research group;
  - Contributing to the production of collaborative research reports and publications.
  - Preparing papers and presenting information on research progress and outcomes to bodies supervising research, e.g. steering groups.
4. To communicate complex information, orally, in writing and electronically.
5. To engage in continuous professional development and to be responsible for continually updating knowledge and understanding in field of study or specialism and for developing skills.

This job description summarises the main duties and accountabilities of the post and is not comprehensive: the post-holder may be required to undertake other duties of similar level and responsibility. Please visit the Human Resources website to view the Research Fellow role profiles.

## Person Specification

<b>Competency</b>	<b>Essential</b>	<b>Desirable</b>
<b>Attainments/Qualifications</b>	PhD (achieved or nearing completion) or equivalent qualification/experience in a related field of study.	
<b>Skills and Understanding</b>	Knowledge of both quantitative and qualitative research methods and analysis.  Experience of conducting evidence reviews using synthesis of both quantitative and qualitative evidence.	Experience of conducting quantitative and qualitative research.  Experience of researching and valuing the linkages between environments and health.
<b>Prior Experience</b>	Experience of contributing to collaborative research projects.	Record of research output in good quality publications as well as presentation and interactions at scientific conferences and other venues.
<b>Behavioural Characteristics</b>	Excellent written and verbal communication skills.  Able to communicate material of a specialist or highly technical nature.  Able to manage research and administrative activities and to balance the competing pressures of research and administrative demands and deadlines.  Able to liaise with colleagues and students.  Able to build contacts and participate in internal and external networks for the exchange of information and collaboration.	
<b>Circumstances</b>	Willing to work flexibly to achieve project demands.	

## Terms & Conditions

Our Terms and Conditions of Employment can be viewed [here](#).

## Further Information

Please see our [website](#) for further information on working at the University of Exeter.