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## THE POST

<b>College/Service:</b>	<a href="#">University of Exeter Medical School</a>
<b>Post:</b>	<b>Postdoctoral Research Associate or Postdoctoral Research Fellow (dependant on experience)</b>
<b>Reference No:</b>	<b>P61655</b>
<b>Grade:</b>	<b>E or F depending on level of appointment</b>
<b>Reporting To:</b>	<b>Dr Rebecca Lovell</b>

The above full time, fixed term post is available immediately at the European Centre for Environment and Human Health (ECEHH; [www.ecehh.org](http://www.ecehh.org)) at the University of Exeter Medical School. This 14-month 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 14-month post will primarily involve the scoping, acquisition and analysis of secondary health, social and environmental datasets suitable to inform and contribute to the development and iterative refining of an urban greenspace valuation tool. The post holder will need good quantitative skills, with experience of using statistical methods and/or GIS and spatial data analysis. The role will also involve contributing to the preparation of an application for ethical approval, participation in stakeholder events, and the writing of reports and papers. The successful candidate will work closely with Dr Rebecca Lovell (Research Fellow in Biodiversity and Health) and Dr Ben Wheeler at the University of Exeter, and with both research partners.

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.

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).

This post is subject to funding confirmation.

### **For candidates appointable at PDRA (Grade E)**

Ideally you 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 have strong quantitative skills. Demonstrable knowledge of, including publications in, the domain of environment and human health is desirable.

You 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 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 (Grade E)**

Competency	Essential	Desirable
Attainments/Qualifications	PhD (achieved or nearing completion) or equivalent qualification/experience in a related field of study.	
Skills and Understanding	<p>Knowledge of quantitative research methods and analysis.</p> <p>Good statistical analysis skills and use of Stata, R, SPSS and/or equivalent software, GIS/spatial analysis skills and use of ArcGIS, QGIS or similar software.</p> <p>Experience of conducting quantitative secondary data analyses.</p>	Experience of researching and valuing the linkages between environments and health.
Prior Experience	Experience of contributing to collaborative research projects.	<p>Experience of undergraduate /postgraduate teaching and supervision.</p> <p>Record of research output in good quality publications as well as presentation and interactions at scientific conferences and other venues.</p>
Behavioural Characteristics	<p>Excellent written and verbal communication skills.</p> <p>Able to communicate material of a specialist or highly technical nature.</p> <p>Able to manage research and administrative activities and to balance the competing pressures of research and administrative demands and deadlines.</p> <p>Able to liaise with colleagues and students.</p> <p>Able to build contacts and participate in internal and external networks for the exchange of information and collaboration.</p>	
Circumstances	Willing to work flexibly to achieve project demands.	

## **Main duties and accountabilities (Postdoctoral Research Fellow (Grade F))**

You must have a PhD in a relevant subject including, but not limited to, health research, economics, sociology, psychology, geography or equivalent research experience and knowledge. Candidates will have strong quantitative skills. Demonstrable knowledge of, including publications in, the domain of environment and human health is desirable.

You will have a proven record of quality research publications at least 2-3\* with respect to the Higher Education Funding Council for England's Research Excellence Framework (REF). You 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 successful team leadership skills with 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 F-grade PDRF at the University of Exeter is available at <http://www.exeter.ac.uk/staff/exeteracademic/yourcareer/research/>

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

1. To undertake research as appropriate to the field of study. The responsibilities may include all or some of the following:
  - Extending, transforming and applying knowledge acquired from scholarship to research and appropriate external activities;
  - Writing or contributing to publications or disseminating research findings;
  - Making presentations at conferences or exhibiting work in other appropriate events;
  - Assessing, interpreting and evaluating outcomes of research;
  - Developing new concepts and ideas to extend intellectual understanding;
  - Resolving problems of meeting research objectives and deadlines;
  - Developing ideas for generating income and promoting research area;
  - Developing ideas for application of research outcomes;
2. To contribute to teaching and learning programmes in the School and to supervise postgraduate research students.
3. To act as research team leader including:
  - Mentoring colleagues with less experience and advising on their professional development;
  - Coaching and supporting colleagues in developing their research techniques;
  - Supervising the work of others, for example in research teams or projects;
  - Developing productive working relationships with other members of staff;
  - Co-ordinating the work of colleagues to ensure equitable access to resources and facilities;
  - Dealing with standard problems and help colleagues to resolve their concerns about progress in research.
4. To routinely communicate complex and conceptual ideas to those with limited knowledge as well as to peers using high level skills and a range of media and to present the results of scientific research to the research funder (Innovate UK) and at conferences.
5. As determined by the nature of the project and at the direction of the PI, to plan, co-ordinate and implement research programme activity including:
  - Managing the use of research resources and ensuring that effective use is made of them;
  - Monitoring and reporting on the use of research budgets;
  - Helping to plan and implement commercial and consultancy activities;
  - Where appropriate, to plan and manage own consultancy assignments.

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.

## **Person Specification (Postdoctoral Research Fellow)**

<b>Competency</b>	<b>Essential</b>	<b>Desirable</b>
Attainments/Qualifications	PhD or equivalent qualification/experience in a related field of study.	Be a nationally recognised authority in the subject area.
Skills and Understanding	<p>Knowledge of quantitative research methods and analysis.</p> <p>Good statistical analysis skills (with use of Stata, R, SPSS or equivalent software) and/or GIS/spatial analysis skills (with use of ArcGIS, QGIS or similar software).</p> <p>Experience of conducting quantitative secondary data analysis.</p>	Experience of researching and valuing the linkages between environments and health.
Prior Experience	<p>Experience of contributing to collaborative research projects, including working with multiple sites, partners and research strands.</p> <p>Record of research output in high quality publications as well as presentation and interactions at scientific conferences and other venues.</p>	<p>Experience of managing collaborative research projects, including working with multiple sites, partners and research strands.</p> <p>Experience of acting as principal investigator on research projects.</p> <p>Experience of undergraduate /postgraduate teaching and supervision.</p>
Behavioural Characteristics	<p>Excellent written and verbal communication skills.</p> <p>Able to communicate complex and conceptual ideas to a range of groups.</p> <p>Evidence of the ability to collaborate actively within the Institution and externally to complete research projects and advance thinking.</p> <p>Able to participate in and develop external networks.</p> <p>Able to balance the pressures of research, administrative demands and competing deadlines.</p>	Able to identify sources of funding, generate income, obtain consultancy projects, or build relationships for future activities.
Circumstances	Willing to work flexibly to achieve project demands.	

### **Starting Salary**

For appointments at Postdoctoral Research Associate, the starting salary will be from £28,936 up to £33,518 on Grade E depending on qualifications and experience.

For appointments at Postdoctoral Research Fellow, the starting salary will be from £34,520 up to £35,550 on Grade F depending on qualifications and experience.

### **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.