



## THE POST

<b>College:</b>	<b>College of Life and Environmental Sciences</b>
<b>Post:</b>	<b>Research Fellow</b>
<b>Reference No:</b>	<b>P65669</b>
<b>Grade:</b>	<b>F</b>
<b>HERA:</b>	<b>RFEL</b>
<b>Reporting To:</b>	<b>Patrick Devine-Wright</b>

The above full time post is available from 1<sup>st</sup> March 2019 until 28<sup>th</sup> February 2021 in the College of Life and Environmental Sciences.

### Job Description

#### Main purpose of the job:

The post will involve conducting fieldwork in shale gas communities in England using qualitative and ethnographic research methods, as well as contributing to other project tasks involving questionnaire surveys and social media analyses. The successful applicant will be able to develop new concepts and ideas to extend intellectual understanding; manage the use of research resources to ensure that effective use is made of them; interpret and evaluate data collected and the outcomes of research; and write up findings in high quality journal publications.

#### Main duties and accountabilities:

1. To undertake research as appropriate including:
  - Acting as postdoctoral researcher on the ASSIST research project;
  - Undertaking relevant research for this project, as advised by the Principle Investigator;
  - Undertaking qualitative and ethnographic research in the case study communities;
  - Assisting with quantitative survey research in the case study communities;
  - Developing new concepts and ideas to extend intellectual understanding;
  - Assessing, interpreting and evaluating the data collected and the outcomes of research;
  - Resolving problems of meeting research objectives and deadlines;
  - Managing the use of research resources to ensure that effective use is made of them.
  - Developing research objectives, projects and proposals;
  - Conducting individual or collaborative research projects;
  - Identifying sources of funding and contributing to the process of securing funds;
  - Extending, transforming and applying knowledge acquired from scholarship to research and appropriate external activities;
  - Writing or contributing to publications or disseminating research findings using media appropriate to the discipline;
  - 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;

- Deciding on /following research programmes and methodologies, often in collaboration with colleagues and sometimes subject to the approval of the head of the research programme on fundamental issues.
2. To engage with project partners as appropriate including:
    - Contributing to the broader ASSIST project aims and objectives;
    - Working as part of the ASSIST project team with partners from other Universities;
    - Working as part of a broader programme of NERC funded shale gas research with other projects.
  3. To engage with relevant publics and stakeholders as appropriate including:
    - Engaging with local communities affected by proposals to develop shale gas;
    - Engaging with civil society, industry and policy makers relevant to the project;
    - Writing or contributing to publications or disseminating research findings using media appropriate to the discipline and the target audience;
    - Making presentations at conferences or other appropriate events.
    - To contribute to teaching and learning programmes in the School and to supervise postgraduate research students.
  4. 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.
  5. 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 sponsors and at conferences.
  6. 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. Please visit the Human Resources website to view the Research Fellow role profiles.

### **Person Specification**

<b>Competency</b>	<b>Essential</b>	<b>Desirable</b>
Attainments/Qualifications	PhD or equivalent qualification/experience in a related field of study, including Human Geography, Environmental Psychology, Sociology or Anthropology.	Master's degree in related field of study  Be a nationally recognised authority in the subject area.
Skills and Understanding	Possess sufficient specialist knowledge in the discipline to develop research programmes	Knowledge of social science literature on energy transitions generally, and shale gas in

	and methodologies, particularly qualitative and ethnographic research methods. Record of research outputs in internationally recognised journal publications.	particular. Knowledge of UK public policy on shale gas. Expertise in conducting survey questionnaire research.
Prior Experience	Experience of working as part of an interdisciplinary research team with other social scientists. Experience of engaging with external stakeholders (e.g. local communities, civil society, industry and policy makers). Experience of working independently and conducting high quality fieldwork research.  Experience of managing research projects and research tea	Experience of working as part of an interdisciplinary research team with natural scientists. Experience of researching environmental conflicts. Experience of researching shale gas. Experience of living in or conducting research in the North of England.  Experience of undergraduate /postgraduate teaching and supervision. Experience of acting as principal investigator on research projects.
Behavioural Characteristics	Excellent written and verbal communication skills. Ability to work independently. Able to communicate complex and conceptual ideas to a range of groups. Evidence of the ability to collaborate actively within the Institution and externally to complete research projects and advance thinking. Able to participate in and develop external networks. Able to identify sources of funding, generate income, obtain consultancy projects, or build relationships for future activities. Able to balance the pressures of research, administrative demands and competing deadlines.	
Circumstances	Able to work flexibly, for example undertaking field research in the evenings or at weekends, as appropriate. Able to travel to and live in fieldwork locations for extended periods of time (i.e. several months at a time). Able to travel to conferences in UK or international locations.	

### **Informal Enquiries**

Before submitting an application you may wish to discuss the post further by contacting Professor Patrick Devine-Wright, telephone (01392 722298) or email [p.g.devine-wright@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:p.g.devine-wright@exeter.ac.uk).

### **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.

