



## THE POST

<b>College:</b>	<b>College of Medicine &amp; Health</b>
<b>Post:</b>	<b>Postdoctoral Research Associate in the Horizons 2020 BlueHealth Project</b>
<b>Reference No:</b>	<b>P67049</b>
<b>Grade:</b>	<b>E26</b>
<b>Reporting To:</b>	<b>Dr Mat White</b>
<b>Responsible For:</b>	<b>Contribute to PhD and other student supervision</b>

The above full-time fixed term post is available from 30<sup>th</sup> April 2019 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020 in the College of Medicine & Health.

### Job Description

The European Centre for Environment and Human Health ([www.ecehh.org](http://www.ecehh.org)) of the College of Medicine & Health is seeking to appoint a Postdoctoral Research Associate to a fixed term full time post for 14 months to support the EU wide 'Blue Health' research project, examining the relationship between Europe's 'blue infrastructure' (rivers, canals, coastline etc.), and human health and well-being. The post holder will have three key roles: a) Support analysis of data from the 18 country BlueHealth survey; b) Support analysis of data from our use of Virtual Reality nature in health care settings; and c) Support national and international dissemination activities (including publications, conferences, 'slams' etc.).

The South West has a wealth of opportunities for research in this area. The European Centre collaborates closely with the University of Exeter Business School and Environment and Sustainability Institute; the Plymouth Marine Laboratory; the UK Met Office; the University of Plymouth Psychology Department; and University College Falmouth as well as other partners in the Peninsula and in Europe.

Environment and Human Health is one of four research themes in the College of Medicine & Health. The Medical School is widely regarded as the strongest of the new medical schools in the UK. It has established an excellent reputation for high quality educational programmes and has a high quality and expanding research portfolio. From the outset the School has sought to build an international research reputation, to complement its innovative educational programme, through tight focus on areas of strength and exploitation of its pan-peninsula status.

All candidates must already have a PhD (or nearing completion) or equivalent qualification/experience in epidemiology, psychology, health geography, economics, or a closely related discipline, or equivalent research experience and knowledge. You will have knowledge and experience of a range of research methods including analysis and interpretation of large datasets; public surveys; and experimental data. Experience in the study of health, wellbeing, and/or the environmental would be an advantage.

You will have proven record of quality research publications at, 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. Experience of research design and analysis is essential.

The post holder will be expected to collaborate intensively with colleagues in the medical school in Exeter and in Cornwall (Truro and Penryn Campuses) as well as with the EU Partners throughout Europe in the Horizons

2020 funded BlueHealth Research Project from a base in the European Centre for Environment and Human health in Truro (Cornwall UK).

Main purpose of the job:

The Postdoctoral Research Associate will work collaboratively with the European Centre BlueHealth group and their EU Partner collaborators. The Horizons 2020 **BlueHealth Consortium** brings together a multi-disciplinary team of experts reaching across all 28 European Union countries and beyond. BlueHealth takes an international, interdisciplinary and multi-sector approach to health promotion and disease prevention by investigating interactions between the EU's extensive 'blue infrastructure,' and the health and well-being of its citizens. **Blue Infrastructure** refers to the network of natural and man-made aquatic environments providing a range of multi-sectoral services (e.g. transportation, fresh water provision). There has been no prior systematic attempt to detail the potential impacts of our blue infrastructure on health promotion and disease (especially prevention relative to 21<sup>st</sup> Century public health challenges), nor to develop guidelines on how health should be considered when developing blue infrastructure interventions, particularly across sectors. BlueHealth will address this gap.

The Postdoctoral Research Associate will be involved particularly in the delivery of Work Package 2 Pan European Evidence for BlueHealth lead by Dr Mat White. This Work Package will be responsible for systematic review of the evidence (including interventions and policy best practice cases), health and wellbeing indicator development, secondary data analysis, and economic valuation to explore health and wellbeing effects of blue environments on large populations. You will be involved in contributing to all these activities, as well as contributing to other Work Packages of the BlueHealth EU Partners.

Main duties and accountabilities:

1. To undertake research as appropriate to the field of study including:
  - Writing up research work for publication;
  - Developing research objectives and proposals for own or joint research;
  - 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 prepare proposals and applications to external bodies, e.g. for funding and contractual purposes
6. To contribute to the planning of research projects.
7. To use research resources, laboratories and workshops as appropriate and to take responsibility for conducting risk assessments, reducing hazards and for the health and safety of others.
8. To monitor research budgets as appropriate.
9. 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.

## Person Specification

Competency	Essential	Desirable
Attainments/Qualifications	PhD (or nearing completion) or equivalent qualification/experience in a related field of study of epidemiology, psychology, health geography, economics or a closely related discipline or equivalent research experience and knowledge	Strong quantitative skills especially in the analysis of large secondary datasets and experimental studies.
Skills and Understanding	Sufficient knowledge in the discipline and of research methods and techniques to work within established research programmes.	Evidence of research activity and published research as well as presentation and interactions at scientific conferences and other venues.
Prior Experience	Experience of interactions with stakeholders and/or teaching	Experience working with other cultures
Behavioural Characteristics	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. Able to identify potential sources of funding. Actively participate as a member of a research team Engage in continuous professional development. Understand equal opportunity issues as they may impact on areas of research content	
Circumstances	There will be substantial independent local and European travel as part of the research	

### **Informal Enquiries**

Before submitting an application you may wish to discuss the post further by contacting Dr Mat White, (tel: 01872 258131) or email [Mathew.White@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:Mathew.White@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.