



THE POST

College: [College of Engineering, Maths and Physical Sciences](#)

Post: Graduate Research Assistant (GRA) / Postdoctoral Research Associate (PDRA)

Reference No: P01118

Grade: E

Reporting To: Professor Frances Wall

Job Description

This Interreg Europe / H2020 funded post is available immediately, part time (or full time for the Graduate research assistant role) until 30 June 2019, when the REMX project ends.

There is flexibility for the post to be full time or part time, with the possibility of part time extension after June 2019 until end of December 2020 as part of the closely related MIREU project. The post would be suitable for a secondment from a local company or organisation with mining-related interests.

Main purpose of the job:

You will assist in the delivery of the two projects that bring together mining regions across Europe: the Smart and Green Mining Regions of Europe 'REMI' project and Horizons 2020 coordinating and support action 'MIREU'. Working with local stakeholders including Cornwall Council, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Enterprise Partnership, and large and small companies (through the Cornwall Mining Alliance), the job will involve administrative support for, and attending, international meetings, hosting meetings in Cornwall and various other international networking activities. You will also carry out research on policy and regional case studies, and help advise on how local mining stakeholders can take advantage of regional smart specialisations, helping to write recommendations for future regional policy, and input into European guidelines and a toolkit for social licence to operate.

Main duties and accountabilities (GRA level):

1. To support research activity under the direction of the principal investigator as appropriate to the research project. Responsibilities may include:
 - Undertaking a broad range of basic research activity according to the nature of the research project. For example preparing, setting up, conducting and recording the outcome of experiments and field work, developing questionnaires and conducting surveys, using straightforward mathematical modelling, statistical techniques or scientific computation;
 - Maintaining databases, keeping accurate written and computerised records and ensuring data is stored securely and managed in accordance with the Data Protection Act;
 - Conducting literature and database searches as required;
 - Writing up the results of own research;
 - Contributing to the production of research reports and publications;
 - Presenting information on research progress and outcomes to bodies supervising research, e.g. steering groups, sponsors or members of research groups;
 - Assisting in the preparation of papers or reports for steering groups and other bodies;
 - Providing administrative support to the principal investigator and other project researchers as required;
 - Making use of standard research techniques and methods;
 - Analysing and interpreting the results of own research and generating original ideas based on outcomes;
 - Contributing to the planning of future research projects.

2. To support teaching activity by assisting in the supervision of student projects and providing limited supervision or instruction to classes, if required.
3. To liaise with members of the research team and other colleagues as appropriate to the research project.
4. To establish internal and external contacts to develop knowledge and understanding and form networks for future collaboration.
5. To plan own day-to-day research activity within the framework of the agreed programme of research and co-ordinate own work with that of others in the group to avoid conflict or duplication of effort.
6. To use research resources, laboratories and workshops as appropriate and to adhere to safety procedures as appropriate. This may include wearing personal protective equipment, conducting risk assessments, reducing hazards and being responsible for the health and safety of others.
7. To engage in continuous professional development and to be responsible for continually updating own knowledge and understanding in field of study or specialism and for developing own 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 – (GRA level)

Competency	Essential	Desirable
Attainments/ Qualifications	Educated to first degree level in a related field of study or equivalent experience.	Post graduate qualification relevant to mining and/or social licence to operate.
Skills and Understanding	Possess sufficient breadth or depth of knowledge in the discipline and of research methods and techniques to work within own area.	
Prior Experience	Understanding of health and safety legislation.	Experience of mining-related businesses in Cornwall. Experience of research and support European projects
Behavioural Characteristics	Ability to maintain accurate records. Ability to organise and prioritise own research work within the project framework. Good written and verbal communication skills. Computer literate. Good analytical skills. 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. 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	Willing to work flexibly to achieve project demands.	

Main duties and accountabilities – (PDRA level)

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 reducing hazards and for the health and safety of others. Where appropriate, will also be responsible for conducting risk assessments.
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. Please visit the Human Resources website to view the Research Fellow role profiles.

Person Specification – (PDRA level)

Competency	Essential	Desirable
Attainments/Qualifications	PhD or equivalent qualification/experience in a related field of study.	
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.
Prior Experience	Understanding of health and safety legislation. Experience of mining-related or similar issues	Experience of mining-related businesses in Cornwall. Experience of research and support to European projects. Experience of undergraduate teaching.
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. Where appropriate to the role, willingness to undergo training in order to conduct risk assessments.	
Circumstances	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.