

THE POST

College:	University of Exeter Medical School http://medicine.exeter.ac.uk/
Post:	Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Evidence Synthesis (Coastal Communities and Health in South East Asia)
Reference No:	P58809
Grade:	F
Reporting To:	Dr Ruth Garside
Responsible For:	Assist in the supervision of a PhD and other students

The above full-time, fixed term post is available from as soon as possible after 1 January 2018 to 31st December 2021 in the European Centre for Environment and Human Health (ECEHH; www.ecehh.org) on the Truro campus of the University of Exeter Medical School. This 4 year (48 month) post is part of the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) supported 'Blue Communities' project, a collaboration between 3 UK institutions: Plymouth Marine Laboratories (PML, lead); the University of Exeter; and the University of Plymouth; and several institutions and non-governmental bodies across South East Asia including in Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam, the Philippines and China.

The overall aim of the project is to:

develop interdisciplinary research capability and lasting collaborations that: facilitate innovative application of integrated planning in the marine environment within the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme and other marine parks and their communities in South East Asia, and respond to the UN Sustainable Development Goals of no poverty, zero hunger and good health and well-being for coastal communities through the sustainable use of marine resources.

The current post will involve systematic mapping of the available evidence, and systematic review and evidence synthesis, on the interactions between conservation activities and marine management, and human health and well-being in South East Asia. Through this process, and co-produced with partners in SE Asia, key evidence gaps will be described and priorities for future research and action identified.

Building on an existing evidence map the researcher will update searches and conduct all stages of the systematic mapping process. Based on priority setting with partners to identify key topics, further work will involve systematic review and evidence synthesis. The post holder will be involved in all stages of the systematic review: quality appraisal, data extraction, evidence synthesis and report writing. The evidence synthesis will include both quantitative and qualitative research evidence. Travel to collaborate with partner organisations in SE Asian will be part of this role, as will skills sharing and training activities around systematic review and evidence synthesis. The successful candidate will work closely with Dr Ruth Garside (Senior Lecturer in Evidence Synthesis). An information specialist will support the design and conduct of the search strategies, and PhD student will also be working with the Research Fellow on a related project.

The post holder will join a multi-disciplinary team on the project including psychology, epidemiology, health geography, marine sciences and environmental/health economics based at the University of Exeter Truro Campus (Cornwall, UK). The post holder will also be expected to collaborate extensively with several other colleagues in the University in Exeter in Cornwall (Truro and Penryn Campuses) as well as UK partners at PML and Plymouth University and our international partners in South East Asia. The post will involve travel to collaborating countries for co-creation of relevant outputs and training programme delivery.

Environment and Human Health more broadly is one of four research themes in the University of Exeter Medical School. 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.

All candidates must have a PhD in a relevant subject including, but not limited to, health research, sociology, psychology, or equivalent research experience and knowledge. You will have experience of systematic review and evidence synthesis and should have knowledge of both quantitative and qualitative research methods, and research in complex interventions. Experience of producing policy relevant outputs is desirable, as is experience of using prioritisation methods. Demonstrable knowledge of, including publications in, the domain of environment and human health is desirable. Applicants with experience in the field of marine eco-systems services and/or working in South East Asia are particularly encouraged to apply.

You will have a 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.

Salary for this appointment will be at grade F. Point on 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.

Please note that international applicants are welcome to apply as we are able to apply for a Tier 2 Certificate of Sponsorship for this post.

Main purpose of the job:

'Blue Communities' is structured around 12 key 'Projects' including identifying best practice marine resource management, fisheries protection, climate modelling, scenario development, and governance support structures. The current Research Fellow will work mainly on **Project 1:**

Evidence synthesis on the interactions between the health and well-being "nexus", conservation activities and marine management, drawing on peer reviewed literature and published reports. This will utilise a searchable data portal (<http://www.natureandpeopleevidence.org/>) to identify relevant research by biome and by region, as well as evidence available within country in local language.

A conceptual framework to understand these interactions will be a key output of the synthesis. The post holder will explore these issues in all SE Asia partner countries working closely with local stakeholders to develop policy relevant findings and to identify gaps in the evidence and prioritise areas for action and for future research.

Main duties and accountabilities:

1. To undertake research as appropriate to the field of evidence synthesis:
 - Acting as the main researcher for Project 1 synthesising evidence for the interconnections between marine conservation and management and human health and wellbeing;
 - Deciding on the research approach and methodologies, in collaboration with internal and external colleagues, and subject to the approval of the head of the research programme on fundamental issues.
 - Leading all stages of the review and synthesis including protocol development, searching, data extraction, quality appraisal, evidence synthesis of both quantitative and qualitative research evidence.
 - Conducting these collaborative research projects;
 - Using software appropriate for management and analysis (such as Endnote; NVIVO; statistical software)
 - Resolving problems of meeting research objectives and deadlines;
 - Developing ideas for application of research outcomes;
 - Writing and contributing to publications and disseminating research findings using appropriate media;
 - Making presentations at conferences or exhibiting work in other appropriate events;
 - Developing new concepts and ideas to extend intellectual understanding;
 - 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;

- Developing ideas for generating income and promoting research area;
2. To plan, co-ordinate and implement research programmes including:
 - Managing the use of research resources and ensure that effective use is made of them;
 - Managing research budgets;
 3. To act as research team leader including:
 - Contribute to our capacity building goals by developing and delivering appropriate training programmes and skills sharing activities with SE Asia partners around systematic review and evidence synthesis, and their use for policy making.
 - Mentoring colleagues with less experience and advising on their professional development;
 - 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 sponsors and at conferences.
 5. To contribute to teaching and learning programmes in the School and to supervise postgraduate research students.
 6. Support Dr Ruth Garside to coordinate the efforts of Project 1 with all other partners involved in the Blue Communities project.

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

Competency	Essential	Desirable
Attainments/Qualifications	PhD or equivalent qualification/experience in a related field of study (e.g. health research, psychology, epidemiology).	Be a nationally recognised authority in their subject area.
Skills and Understanding	<p>Experience of conducting systematic reviews and evidence syntheses</p> <p>Knowledge of both quantitative and qualitative research methods and analysis.</p> <p>Previous use of relevant software for systematic reviews (such as Endnote, specific software such as RefMan, EPPI-reviewer and/or how to use generic software such as Excel/ Word for these purposes)</p> <p>Record of research outputs in nationally recognised publications.</p>	<p>Experience of conducting quantitative and qualitative research.</p> <p>Experience of conducting systematic reviews using synthesis of both quantitative and qualitative evidence.</p> <p>Experience of researching the impact of complex interventions.</p> <p>Understanding of the issues around interconnections between oceans and human health</p> <p>Evidence of research activity and published research as well as presentation and interactions at scientific conferences and other venues.</p>

<p>Prior Experience</p>	<p>Strong project management experience, including working with multiple sites, partners and research strands.</p> <p>Experience of managing research budgets.</p> <p>Experience of teaching and/or engagement</p>	<p>Experience of working on international collaborative research projects.</p> <p>Experience of using consensus or prioritisation processes.</p> <p>Experience of producing policy-relevant outputs</p> <p>Experience of postgraduate teaching and supervision.</p> <p>Experience of acting as principal investigator on research projects.</p> <p>Experience in obtaining grant funding.</p>
<p>Behavioural Characteristics</p>	<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> <p>Able to identify sources of funding, generate income, obtain consultancy projects, or build relationships for future activities.</p>	<p>Experience working with and living in other cultures (especially South East Asia).</p>
<p>Circumstances</p>	<p>The candidate will be expected to make several trips to South East Asia, both as part of a UK delegation and independently.</p>	

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.