

Research Associate

Job Ref: REQ17356

As part of the University's ongoing commitment to redeployment, please note that this vacancy may be withdrawn at any stage of the recruitment process if a suitable redeployee is identified.

Job Description

Job Grade: Specialist and Supporting Academic Research Grade 6

Project Description:

This is an exciting opportunity for a physical geographer with a background in flood-related research to contribute to an EPSRC funded project on water-food-energy NEXUS. The post holder will work alongside Dr Dapeng Yu to: (i) assist numerical simulations of hydrological, hydraulic and geomorphic processes; and (ii) design and execute field campaigns. She/he will also collaborate closely with partner universities and project partners, within and across work packages of the consortium project.

The successful applicant will be a researcher with experience in: (i) modelling hydrological, hydraulic and geomorphic processes associated with flood risks; and/or (ii) designing and undertaking fieldwork in relation to modelling flood risks.

The Research Associate will undertake the specific tasks outlined in the respective projects (see duties), assisted by the project investigator.

Job Duties:

Project Specific (management)

- Take shared responsibility for overall project design and management;
- Assist with the management and organisation of project meetings;
- Attend and contribute to meetings with partner universities;
- Attend and contribute to meetings with project partners;
- Attendance and input at regular internal meetings;
- Manage research materials/data and archiving;
- Take shared responsibility for the analysis and presentation of findings;
- Assist with the development of the research network;
- Contribute to, present at and collaborate in dissemination and knowledge transfer exercises;
- Report research progress and discuss project issues with the Principal Investigator;
- Manage and develop online materials, blogs and social media as appropriate;
- Liaise with the project partners through regular meetings;
- Take responsibility for following up, negotiating and maintaining research contacts.

Project Specific (research)

- Conduct literature based searches and collect background information on the research areas;
- Design and execute field campaigns for data collection;
- Take a leading role in securing access to field sites by liaising with local landowners;
- Manage the day-to-day technical challenges associated with the field campaign;
- Manage occasional field assistants and take responsibility for health and safety;

- Maintain a detailed and thorough record of scientific activities and field operations;
- Undertake field data processing;
- Design and execute the modelling framework to investigate flood risks in study sites;
- Modelling hydrological, hydraulic and geomorphic processes;
- Integrate empirical rules of crop growth and soil-plant-water interaction from partner universities into the modelling framework;
- Assist with model development when necessary;
- Interact with social scientists in the consortium and provide inputs to their work;
- Negotiate and follow up research contacts;
- Liaise and work closely with partner universities;
- Manage the dissemination of online materials such as blogs and social media;
- Liaise with project teams and provide inputs to other research activities within a consortium;
- Assist in the development of materials for knowledge transfer and networking;
- Author / co-author seminar and/or conference papers based on the research;
- Present /co-present at conferences, seminars and related events;
- Author / co-author scholarly articles based on this work;
- Other duties as assigned from time to time.

Other Related Activities and Functions

- To engage in training programmes in the University (e.g. through Professional Development) which are consistent with your needs and aspirations and those of the School);
- To undertake such duties as may be reasonably requested and that are commensurate with the nature and grade of the post.

Opportunities are available for co-authorship on research papers intended for publication in international peer-reviewed journals.

Points To Note:

The purpose of this job description is to indicate the general level of duties and responsibility of the post. The detailed duties may vary from time to time without changing the general character or level of responsibility entailed.

Special Conditions:

All staff have a statutory responsibility to take reasonable care of themselves, others and the environment and to prevent harm by their acts or omissions. All staff are therefore required to adhere to the University's Health, Safety and Environmental Policy & Procedures.

All staff should hold a duty and commitment to observing the University's Equality & Diversity policy and procedures at all times. Duties must be carried out in accordance with relevant Equality & Diversity legislation and University policies/procedures.

Successful completion of probation will be dependent on attendance at the University's mandatory courses which include Respecting Diversity and, where appropriate, Recruitment and Selection.

Organisational Responsibility:

Reports to Dr Dapeng Yu, Senior Lecturer in Geography

Person Specification

Your application will be reviewed against the essential and desirable criteria listed below. Applicants are strongly advised to explicitly state and evidence how they meet each of the essential (and desirable) criteria in their application. Stages of assessment are as follows:

- 1 – Application
- 2 – Test/Assessment Centre/Presentation
- 3 – Interview

Essential Criteria

Area	Criteria	Stage
Experience	Experience of designing and undertaking field work campaigns	1,3
	Experience of maintaining exacting scientific records of field study designs and equipment deployments	1,3
	Extensive experience of critically evaluating, analysing and presenting field data	1,3
	Experience of hydrological/ hydraulic modelling	1,3
	Experience of presenting research to academic and/or external audiences	1,3
	Team working	1,3
	Skills and abilities	Field methods and basic technologies for fluvial and geomorphic measurements
	Strong computer skills, including advanced use of GIS	1,3
	Self-motivated with ability to prioritise work and meet deadlines	1,3
	Organisational and administrative skills	1,3
	A flexible and conscientious approach to work	1,3
	Ability to work independently, as part of a team and to collaborate with others in a collegial manner	1,3
	Able to drive in the UK	1,3
Training	Demonstrate evidence of having undertaken further training	3
Qualifications	PhD (or near completion) in Geography, Engineering or relevant subject	1
Other	Evidence of a good working knowledge of equal opportunities and understanding of diversity in the workplace	3
	Commitment to observing the University's Equal Opportunities policy at all times	1,3

Desirable Criteria

Area	Criteria	Stage
Experience	Experience with sediment transport monitoring and modelling	1,3
	Experience with crop modelling	1,3
	Experience with soil sampling	1,3
	Experience with soil-water-plant interaction	1,3
	Academic conference presentations	1,3
	Experience of publishing research outcomes	1,3
	Experience of organising and/or delivering knowledge exchange activities	1,3
Skills and abilities	Ability to programme (e.g. C++, Python, Javascript and Java)	1,3
	Skills of developing hydrological/hydraulic modelling	1,3
	Ability to process remote sensing data	1,3
	Ability to develop creative ways for presenting and disseminating data	1,3
	Skills in design and management of websites	1,3

Conditions of Service

The position is full-time, fixed-term until 31 May 2019, with a start date as soon as possible following interview.

Salary will be on Research Grade 6 at a starting salary of (£29,301-£33,943) per annum, plus pay award effective from 1 August 2017. The appointment will be subject to the University's normal Terms and Conditions of Employment for Academic and Related staff, details of which can be found [here](#).

The University is committed to enabling staff to maintain a healthy work-home balance and has a number of family-friendly policies which are available at <http://www.lboro.ac.uk/services/hr/a-z/family-leave-policy-and-procedure---page.html>.

We also offer an on-campus nursery with subsidised places, subsidised places at local holiday clubs and a childcare voucher scheme (further details are available at: <http://www.lboro.ac.uk/services/hr/a-z/childcare-information---page.html>)

In addition, the University is supportive, wherever possible, of flexible working arrangements. We also strive to create a culture that supports equality and celebrates diversity throughout the campus. The University holds a Bronze Athena SWAN award which recognises the importance of support for women at all stages of their academic career. For further information on Athena SWAN see <http://www.lboro.ac.uk/services/hr/athena-swan/>

Informal Enquiries

Informal enquiries should be made to Dr Dapeng Yu, Senior Lecturer in Geography by email at d.yu2@lboro.ac.uk or by telephone on +44 (0)1509 228191.

Applications

The closing date for receipt of applications is **31 May 2017**