

RESEARCH ASSOCIATE IN DOMESTIC HOT WATER

Understanding consumers' requirements for domestic hot water – qualitative researcher

(Fixed-Term for 9 months full time, up to 18 months at 0.5FTE)

As part of the University's ongoing commitment to redeployment, please note that this vacancy may be withdrawn at any stage of the recruitment process if a suitable redeployee is identified.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

Loughborough Design School is seeking an experienced qualitative researcher who can further our understanding of the user requirements for domestic hot water in the UK. The post holder will support the 4S-DHW project and is expected to have a background in qualitative research, evidenced through collecting data from people in homes and analysing the data using established qualitative analysis approaches. Applicants are likely to be from a user centred design, design research, human factors, psychology or social science background. The post can be full time for 9 months or up to 18 months at 0.5FTE.

PROJECT: 4S-DHW

4S-DHW (Small, Smart, Sustainable Systems for Domestic Hot Water) is funded by EPSRC and is a collaboration between Loughborough University, Warwick University and University of Ulster. The project as a whole is addressing the challenge of providing domestic hot water (DHW) using low carbon heat pump technology given the overwhelming trend away from conventional hot water tanks in homes and the inability of present heat pumps to provide instant hot water.

The project is researching a suite of technologies to deliver energy efficient, affordable hot water to a wide range of dwellings well into the future. To bring this together into a range of integrated systems suited to different housing types etc, we need to understanding consumer's requirements and preferences for hot water delivery. These consumer preferences will be investigated by the use of appropriate qualitative methods carried out by the post holder, to identify user requirements and determine constraints. We anticipate the role including gathering new data through interviews and focus groups with householders and other stakeholders and analysing existing data relating to hot water use.

The post holder will be part of Loughborough Design School, which is located in a £21million state-of-the-art building, and brings together teams of staff with world leading reputations for their research, teaching and wider stakeholder collaborations. They will be expected to work with colleagues from the School of Civil and Building Engineering and the Centre for Renewable Energy Systems Technology, at Loughborough University, as well as the other project partners, who will provide support with the technical aspects of the research.

Please note, an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check may be required for this post.

Job Grade Specialist and Supporting Academic Grade 6

Job Purpose

A Research Associate is required by the School's User Centred Design Research Group to work on the Research Council project, 4S-DHW, to undertake qualitative research around the user requirements for domestic hot water.

JOB DUTIES

The main duties of the successful applicant will be:

1. To design, organise and undertake research for the 4S-DHW project. Specifically:
 - a. to develop user centred methods to understand householders' requirements for hot water;
 - b. to analyse existing data on hot water use, to establish a set of 'standard' hot water draw off patterns and a set of 'real and extreme' draw off patterns;
2. To author original work for submission to peer-reviewed journals.
3. To prepare reports and papers for presentation at national and international conferences and meetings.
4. To work with the other members of the research team when appropriate.
5. To be aware of and comply with, research governance and data protection legislation; and to ensure that research activity, data collection and management comply with these demands.
6. To attend meetings and other events appropriate to the project and give progress reports as required.
7. In collaboration with senior staff, to identify and undertake a programme of professional development, including further training in research methods and other transferable skills as required.
8. To carry out specific other duties as may be reasonably requested by the project leader and that are commensurate with the nature and grade of the post.

Other:

- 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
- To review on a continuous basis relevant developments reported in the scientific and technical literature.
- To pursue excellence and maintain high standards of safety in all activities.

General and administrative:

- To work effectively with relevant administrative, technical and academic staff in the School and across the University.
- To engage in training programmes in the University (e.g. through Staff Development) which are consistent with your needs and aspirations and those of the project team and the Design School.
- To carry out specific other duties as may be reasonably requested by the project leader and that are commensurate with the nature and grade of the post.

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.

Organisational Responsibility

Reports to Dr Victoria Haines, Principal Investigator

Person Specification

Your application will be reviewed with respect to meeting the essential and desirable criteria listed below. 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
Education and Qualifications	A good first degree in a relevant discipline	1
	Holds (or near to completing) a PhD in a relevant user centred design discipline	1
Experience	Experience of collecting and analysing qualitative data	1,3
	Experience of user centred design methods including surveys, interviews and focus groups	1,3
	Experience of interacting with ends users in a research context	1,3
	Authoring original work for academic journal papers, conference papers or technical reports	1,3
	Experience of using qualitative data management software (e.g. NVivo) and presenting the outcomes of data analysis	1,3
Skills, Abilities and Knowledge	Excellent written, visual and oral communication skills – including writing for academic and professional audiences	1,3
	Ability to coordinate project activities, manage project tasks, prioritise and meet deadlines	1,3
	Ability to work independently and as part of a team	1,3
	Excellent interpersonal and organisational skills	1,3
	Good analytical and IT skills	1,3
Training	Willingness to undertake appropriate further training and to adopt new procedures as and when required.	3
Equality and Diversity	Evidence a good working knowledge of equal opportunities and understanding of diversity in the workplace	1,3
Other	Willingness and ability to travel	3
	Commitment to maintain confidentiality at all times	3

Desirable Criteria

Area	Criteria	Stage
Experience	Experience of conducting research into energy demand	1,3
	Experience of working with others in a research context	1,3
	Experience of interacting with householders in a research context	1,3
	Experience of cross-disciplinary research	1,3
Skills, Abilities and Knowledge	Knowledge of current UK Government policy in housing energy demand	1,3
	Knowledge of relevant ethical issues	1,3

	Knowledge of relevant Health & Safety issues	1,3
Other	Valid licence for driving in the UK	1,3
	Able and willing to work evenings away from the University	3

Conditions of Service

The position is full time and fixed term for 9 months, but could be extended to up to 18 months at 0.5FTE. Salary will be on Specialist and Supporting Academic Grade 6, £29,301 per annum (or pro rata if applicable). Subject to annual pay award.

The appointment will be subject to the University's normal Terms and Conditions of Employment for Academic and Related staff/Operational and Administrative 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 are welcomed and should be directed to Dr Victoria Haines on +44 (0)1509 226915 or e-mail V.J.Haines@lboro.ac.uk

Applications

The closing date for receipt of applications is **29th August 2017**.

Interviews will be held on **12th September 2017**.