

Research Associate – Progressing the Sustainability Field: A New Approach to Framing Practices in Design for Social Change

REQ200074

As part of the University's ongoing commitment to redeployment, please note that this vacancy may be withdrawn at any stage of the recruitment process if a suitable redeployee is identified.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 Grade 6

Job Purpose: To undertake research and administrative duties, under the direct line management of the PI, to meet the deliverables of the UKRI AHRC funded project 'Progressing the Sustainability Field: A New Approach to Framing Practices in Design for Social Change'. The aim of the project is to develop understanding on the political dimension of design engaged with social change within the context of sustainability.

We are seeking a research assistant who will be based at the Institute of Design Innovation (IDI) at Loughborough University's London school in the borough of Hackney. Candidates will be encouraged to participate in IDI's wider research, teaching and enterprise practices. Training opportunities appropriate to the needs of the project will be provided.

We are particularly interested in applicants who are working at the intersection of the social science, or humanities and design. We are seeking interdisciplinary thinkers who have an interest and experience in researching the intersection between design, politics and sustainability. Fields of specialisation may include participatory design, design politics, design activism, design anthropology, visual communications, visual culture, cultural studies, or other areas deemed relevant.

Job Duties

- To prepare interview transcripts, schedule and conduct interviews
- To prepare, schedule and co-deliver workshops
- To prepare desk research (set-up codes, software, analysis process)
- To prepare and conduct field interventions to trial the design approach
- To analyse, generate insights / themes and write up the findings in accordance with the project requirements
- To identify and review relevant literature within the project scope and timeframe
- To coordinate and deliver a design event
- To develop and compile project content for publication in a booklet
- To ensure timely scheduling of monthly project meetings, timely updates to the project website, fulfilling administrative duties, and University processes as deemed appropriate by the PI
- To contribute to academic writing and wider dissemination of the findings as deemed appropriate by the PI
- Any other tasks deemed necessary by the PI

Supervision

The RA will be line-managed by the project leader and principal investigator (PI) Dr Sharon Prendeville.

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 the project leader and principal investigator (PI) Dr Sharon Prendeville.

Person Specification

Your application will be reviewed with respect to meeting 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	Proven research background with postgraduate experience in one or more of the relevant research areas	1
Skills and abilities	Ability to work under strict and tight deadlines, both proactively with the project team and independently as needed	1 and 3
	Ability to collaborate proactively and enthusiastically with the project team	3
	Excellent written and oral communication skills	1 and 3
	Self-motivated with ability to meet deadlines	1 and 3
	Excellent analytical skills	1
	Evidence of emerging publication track record in journals and transactions of high quality	1 and 3
	Ability to present research work in national and international conferences	1 and 3
	Strong visual design and communication skills	1 and 3
Training	Willingness to undertake appropriate further training and to adopt new procedures as and when required	1
Qualifications	An outstanding educational profile up to and including first degree	1
	PhD in a subject area of relevance to the project topic	1
Other	Commitment to observing the University's Equal Opportunities policy at all times	1
	Willingness to travel and attend meetings related to research projects or similar	1

Conditions of Service

The position is **part-time** (28 hours per week), and **fixed-term** for 20 months (*term length may be reduced if candidate commences role post April 2020 due to funding restrictions*). Salary will be on Specialist and Supporting Academic Grade 6 (£30,942 - £40,322 pro-rata per annum) plus £3,204 London Allowance (pro-rata), at a starting salary commensurate with experience and to be agreed on appointment.

The appointment will be subject to the University's normal Terms and Conditions of Employment for Grade 6 and above 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>.

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/>