

Research Associate in Water Supply, Sanitation and Community Engagement Beyond the Networked City

REQ200577

As part of the University's ongoing commitment to redeployment, please note that this vacancy may be withdrawn at any stage of the recruitment process if a suitable redeployee is identified.

Project Description

The School of Architecture, Building and Civil Engineering, Loughborough University is part of a consortium that won a Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) grant to carry out research in the water, sanitation and energy sectors. This grant is managed by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and will run from April 2020 to March 2023. The consortium is led by Bristol University, and also includes Makerere University, Kampala (Uganda); Sierra Leone Urban Resource Centre, Freetown (Sierra Leone); and African Centre for Cities, University of Cape Town (South Africa).

The aim of the 'Beyond the networked city' research project is to enhance the delivery of sustainable and resilient water, sanitation and energy services to marginalised communities in cities of developing countries, through high quality service delivery. The project will develop and test improved systems to deliver water, sanitation and energy services to marginalised people living in urban areas. These services are selected because they represent the most fundamental needs of urban populations and are the focus of SDG 6 (water and sanitation) and SDG 7 (energy). Our work will support the achievement of SDG 11 (sustainable communities and cities). The research will be undertaken in Freetown, Sierra Leone and Kampala, Uganda. The population in both these cities is growing rapidly, with significant levels of poverty and significant numbers of informal settlements. Current rates of access to improved water supply, sanitation and energy are low in these cities, with striking inequalities in access to these services between wealthy and poor areas.

Loughborough University is involved in all aspects of the research project and will lead on community engagement and the water and sanitation components of the research. The RA is required to work within these two components, in collaboration with other members of the project team.

Job Description

Job Grade: Specialist and Supporting Academic Grade 6

Job Purpose

To conduct research in the area of water and sanitation services for low-income countries; to develop and implement community engagement activities with a wide range of community members; and to coordinate with in-country partners in primary data collection and pilot-testing of service delivery models developed during the research.

Job Duties

- To undertake a literature review to develop a comprehensive assessment of water and sanitation service delivery in high density, low-income urban settlements, with a focus on realities for Freetown and Kampala.
- To work with other researchers to develop various research tools, both qualitative and quantitative.
- To develop and support the implementation of community engagement activities.
- To support in-country researchers in research design, data collection, implementation of pilot studies, and dissemination of findings.
- Be responsible for conducting the day to day running of the project.
- To formulate detailed plans for the project based on broad guidance from the project team.
- To feed back to the project team on progress, to make recommendations for next steps.
- Write up regular progress reports and present outcomes to all Investigators and Collaborators.
- Make up to six fieldwork trips to Freetown (Sierra Leone) and Kampala (Uganda).
- To support the project team by enhancing relationships with existing collaborators and by assisting the establishment of relationships with new collaborators.
- To write research papers suitable for publication in high quality academic journals.
- To attend and contribute to conferences.
- To contribute to project promotion and public engagement events.
- Contribute ideas for new research and enterprise directions.
- Maintain confidentiality at all times and ensure that intellectual property (IPR) agreements are not violated.
- Engage in training programmes in the University (or elsewhere) that are consistent with the needs and aspirations of the project and those of the Department.
- Undertake other duties as may be reasonably requested 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.

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 Sam Kayaga, the Loughborough-based PI

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
Experience	Background in water and sanitation engineering/management	1&3
	Post-graduate research experience in an academic environment related to Water, Sanitation and Health in Developing Countries	1&3
	Experience in community engagement approaches	1&3
	Work on development projects or related research in developing countries, together with local stakeholders, including use of participatory research methods	1&3
	Authoring original work for academic journal papers, conference papers or technical reports	1
Skills and abilities	Use and application of mixed methods (qualitative and quantitative research methods)	1&3
	Experience of working as part of a multi-disciplinary research team	1&3
	Excellent written and oral communication skills	1&3
	Self-motivated with ability to meet deadlines	3
	Excellent interpersonal, and organisational skills	3
	Working knowledge of qualitative data analysis tools, e.g. NVIVO	1&3
	Ability to write project reports and make technical presentations to industrial and academic research groups	1&3
	Knowledge of relevant Health & Safety issues	3
Training	Demonstrate evidence of having undertaken further training	1&3
Qualifications	PhD (or near completion) related to water and sanitation, and/or community services	1
Other	Commitment to observing the University's Equal Opportunities policy at all times.	3

Desirable Criteria

Area	Criteria	Stage
Experience	Previous research experience in water and sanitation services for high density low income urban settlements of cities in developing economies	1&3
	Developing proposals for funding from external agencies	3
	Working in a high-quality academic research environment	1&3
	Experience of teaching and / or supervision of students in relevant areas	1&3

Skills and abilities	Authoring original work, in the highest quality refereed academic journals	1
	A strong publication track record	1
Qualifications	PhD (or near completion) related to water and sanitation, and/or community services	1
Other	Travel / Able to travel Independently / Working patterns	3

Conditions of Service

The position is **full-time** and **fixed-term** for until March 2023 in the first instance. Subject to funding the role may be extended by another 2 months. Salary will be on Specialist and Supporting Academic Grade 6 from (£30,942 - £40,322 per annum), at a starting salary to be confirmed on offer of appointment.

The appointment will be subject to the University's Terms and Conditions of Employment for Grade 6 and above, 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 can be found [here](#).

The University offers a wide range of employee benefits which can be found [here](#).

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/>