

## **Research Associate in Service Design for Modern Energy Cooking Services - Understanding everyday cooks' experiential requirements for clean energy cooking services in the Global South – design researcher**

**REQ200798**

**As part of the University's ongoing commitment to redeployment, please note that this vacancy may be withdrawn at any stage of the recruitment process if a suitable redeployee is identified.**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 University's School of Design & Creative Arts is seeking an experienced design researcher who can further understanding of how human centred design can be used to ensure that modern energy cooking services developed for use in the Global South (specifically Kenya) meet the needs of everyday cooks. The post holder will support the Service Design for MECS project (SD4MECS) and is expected to have a background in design research, human centred design, service design, experience design or co-design. The post is for 12 months full time from 1 December/January 2021; a part time post is possible, spreading the 12 months over a maximum of 18.

### **Project: Service Design for MECS (SD4MECS)**

SD4MECS is a 1-year project funded by the Modern Energy Cooking Services (MECS) research programme led by Loughborough University's Geography department. MECS is a 4-year programme funded by the Department for International Development (DFID). MECS aims to facilitate the roll out and adoption of modern energy cooking services within the Global South. SD4MECS is a collaboration between Loughborough University's School of Design & Creative Arts and Geography. It sits within MECS Workstream 2.3 – Behavioural Change – a workstream designed to produce a set of consumer preference studies that can inform other parts of the MECS programme.

SD4MECS aims to use a Human Centred Design (HCD) approach to understand the needs and aspirations of everyday cooks in specific Global South contexts and empower them as co-creators of innovative modern energy cooking services. SD4MECS will use a planned MECS field trial as a live 'test site' to adapt, develop and apply HCD methodologies to the modern energy cooking services context in order to iteratively develop a 'MECS Living Lab' framework.

Loughborough University's School of Design & Creative Arts is leading the work to develop the 'MECS Living Lab' framework. To do this, we need to (1) understand how HCD can be embedded into a technology-led, cross-cultural field trial of a new modern energy cooking device, and (2) use Service Design to develop the methodological framework that can enable HCD to be adopted and applied at scale across a variety of cultures and MECS contexts. This work will be conducted through the use of appropriate qualitative methods carried out by the post holder. It is anticipated that the role will include gathering new data through interviews and workshop-based activities with key MECS stakeholders and everyday cooks (both remotely and where possible in the field) and analysing existing data collected by other MECS researchers.

The post holder will be part of Loughborough Design, 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 Centre for Renewable Energy Systems Technology, and the Geography department at Loughborough University, as well as the other MECS 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 to work on the MECS (DFID) funded project, SD4MECS, to adapt, develop and apply HCD methodologies to the modern energy cooking services context in Global South contexts.

### **Job Duties**

The main duties of the successful applicant will be:

1. To design, organise and undertake research for the SD4MECS project. Specifically:
  - a. to adapt, develop and apply human centred methods to explore how HCD can be embedded into a technology-led, cross-cultural field trial of a new modern energy cooking device using a Living Labs approach.
  - b. use Service Design to develop the methodological framework that can enable HCD to be adopted and applied at scale across a variety of cultures and MECS contexts and to optimise the experience of MECS field trial participants and other key stakeholders involved.
  - c. apply HCD approaches, methods and tools via the MECS Living Lab to support future development of modern energy cooking services.
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 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 Val Mitchell - Principal Investigator (and/or Dr Stuart Cockbill – Co-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 human centred design discipline	1
Experience	Experience of collecting and analysing qualitative data using design research methods and tools.	1,3
	Experience of relevant design research and human centred design methods and tools (e.g. semi structured interviews, co-creation workshops, experience sampling, diary studies and personas)	1,3
	Experience of interacting with ends users and stakeholders in a research context	1,3
	Authoring original work for academic journal papers, conference papers or technical reports	1,3
	Experience of qualitative data analysis and presenting the outcomes of data analysis using visual communication tools such as personas and journey maps.	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 human centred design research in the energy context	1,3
	Experience of working with others in a research context	1,3
	Experience of working/living in Global South contexts	1,3
	Experience of cross-disciplinary research	1,3
Skills, Abilities and Knowledge	Knowledge of current global sustainable development drivers	1,3
	Knowledge of relevant ethical and cultural issues	1,3
	Knowledge of relevant Health & Safety issues	1,3
	Knowledge of visual communication software packages such as Adobe Creative Cloud InDesign, and Illustrator.	1,3
Other	Valid licence for driving in the UK	1,3
	Able and willing to work away from the University	3

## Conditions of Service

The position is **full-time** and **fixed-term** until December 2021. Salary will be on Specialist and Supporting Academic Grade 6 (£30,942 - £40,322 per annum) at starting salary to be confirmed on offer of 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>.

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/>