

## Research Associate: Modern Energy Cooking in Institutional Settings (MECS programme)

REQ200801

**As part of the University's ongoing commitment to redeployment, please note that this vacancy may be withdrawn at any stage of the recruitment process if a suitable redeployee is identified.**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

1.8 billion people have access to electricity but still cook with biomass. Load shedding, weak grids, affordability of electricity, accessibility of liquid petroleum gas (LPG), tradition, perceptions, poor energy governance, and a lack of suitable cooking appliances all act as barriers to scaling up the use of electricity or gas for cooking – clean cooking. The Modern Energy Cooking Services Programme (MECS), is a £39.8 million, 5-year programme funded by UKAid through the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), led by Loughborough University.

We already know that increasing access through renewable energy generation is becoming more affordable and opening new windows of opportunity. New business models and smart monitoring are improving the reliability of LPG distribution, appliances can be made more energy efficient but still cook favourite foods so they taste right, and cooking with electricity is becoming increasingly affordable with issues of reliability and sustainability being overcome. We want to build on these opportunities and the new knowledge emerging from the MECS programme to break out of business-as-usual approaches and rapidly accelerate the transition from biomass to clean cooking on a global scale. As part of an expansion of the programme, MECS is developing new activities designed to transition cooking within institutional settings.

The post-holder will work in close collaboration with other members of the MECS team and MECS programme partners. The post holder will be required to travel in order to work with partners across the UK and overseas.

### Job Description

**Job Grade:** Specialist and Supporting Academic Grade 6

### Job Purpose

To support the delivery of the Modern Energy Cooking Services programme with a specific focus on clean cooking in institutional settings. The workstream is split into 3 core work packages. 1) understanding transition pathways for MECS in institutional settings; 2) demonstrate technology, innovation and delivery models; 3) capacity building and scale up. The Research Associate will be expected to lead on work packages 1 and 2 and support on 3. MECS works across 15 priority countries. For the institutional work stream, activities are likely to be focused on 3-5 countries.

## **Job Duties**

- Conduct research and analysis, qualitative and quantitative, on understanding transition pathways, technology, innovation and delivery models.
- Manage support requests from MECS partners related to the institutional workstream e.g. providing training and support on methods/tools/processes, access to data, analysis and activity design.
- Formulate detailed plans for the institutional workstream in partnership with other MECS staff and partners in relation to the overall programme objective of changing the narrative on clean cooking.
- Making sure that the cross-cutting themes of gender, inclusion, disability and leave no one behind are embedded within all the work done in the institutional workstream.
- Write up regular progress reports and feed back to the project team on progress and make recommendations for next steps.
- Travel to attend meetings and make presentations both within the project partners working group and to external stakeholders.
- 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.
- 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 the co-leads of the MECS institutional and humanitarian energy workstreams, Dr Anh Tran and Dr Long Seng To.

## 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	Background in a relevant field (e.g. institutional energy, renewable energy, clean cooking, energy access)	1,2,3	
	Experience of working and/or conducting research in the global south	1,2,3	
	Authoring original work for academic journal papers, conference papers or technical reports	1,3	
	Experience of interacting with government/industry/civil society/communities and developing strong relationships with partners and stakeholders.	1,2,3	
	Experience of cross-disciplinary work and/or multi agency partnership work	1,2,3	
	Experience in developing/contributing to planning for a team/workstream/project	1, 3	
	Skills and abilities	Excellent knowledge of qualitative and quantitative research approaches (data collection and analysis)	1,3
Ability to work with and support others in achieving their activities/goals		1, 2, 3	
Understanding of the intersection between social and technical facets of the energy sector		1, 2, 3	
Excellent written and oral communication skills		1,3	
Self-motivated with ability to meet deadlines and manage own workload		1,3	
Excellent interpersonal and organisational skills		1,3	
Ability to write project reports and make presentations to non-academic and academic research groups		1,3	
Ability to develop creative ways for presenting research analysis and findings		1,2,3	
Training		Demonstrate evidence of having undertaken further training	1,3
Qualifications		PhD (or near completion) in relevant field	1,3
Other	Commitment to observing the University's Equal Opportunities policy at all times.	1,3	

## Desirable Criteria

Area	Criteria	Stage
Experience	Experience of networking with organizations outside academia	1,3
	Experience of working on related topics such as gender, inclusion, disability and inequality	1,3
	Experience of contributing to project promotion and public engagement events	1, 3
Other	Willingness to travel on behalf of the project including overseas	1,3

## Conditions of Service

The position is **full-time** and **fixed-term** until 30 September 2023. The successful candidate is expected to commence as soon as possible. Salary will be on Specialist and Supporting Academic Grade 6 (£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 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 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/>