

Postdoctoral Research Associate

The Fair Energy Campaign, Design for Social Change

REQ210063

As part of the University's ongoing commitment to redeployment, please note that this vacancy may be withdrawn at any stage of the recruitment process if a suitable redeployee is identified.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

Job Purpose: To undertake research and administrative duties, under the direct line management of the PI, to meet the deliverables of the 'Fair Energy Campaign Olympic Park Pilot' project, funded by the London Legacy Development Corporation. The aim of the project is to tackle fuel poverty and climate emergency through strategic mobilisation of local communities of trust within the Olympic Park and legacy boroughs.

Fast-paced development at the Olympic Park offers immense opportunities for residents and businesses alike, but it also presents the challenge of rising carbon emissions. One way of countering this inevitable effect is by encouraging residents, businesses and tenants to adopt innovative, more efficient ways to source and consume energy.

The Fair Energy Campaign is a grassroots initiative that champions best practices and principles in the energy sector, supports informed decisions for energy procurement and encourages customer-centric service innovation in the energy sector. The R&D project is delivered in partnership with Citizens UK and combines elements of design innovation, strategic communication and citizen mobilisation for social change.

This pilot campaign action research project will take place with the Olympic Park communities during 2021 and has the potential for significant impact at city-wide and national level in subsequent phases. The project consists of co-creating and implementing resources and strategies to enable 16,000 vulnerable households within the park and legacy boroughs access to 100% renewable and affordable energy.

We are seeking a research assistant who will join us at the Institute for Design Innovation (IDI) at Loughborough University London, based in the borough of Hackney. Candidates will be encouraged to participate in IDI's wider academic and public engagement activities. Training opportunities appropriate to the needs of the project will be provided.

This research builds on social innovation, social movement, critical and communication theories to investigate the strategic role of design in the context of citizen-led strategic action. Working with community-led mobilisation, the aim is to co-create participatory and inclusive frameworks and methodologies for enabling, activating, empowering and legitimising emergent forms of citizen-driven democratic innovation. The investigation will expand current understandings on the role of design in shaping collective identities, mediating cultural and symbolic meanings in socio-political contexts, and enhancing creative leadership capacity in activism practices.

We are particularly interested in applicants with strong research and project management experience, and an interest in strategic design, communicative action and mobilisation methods. We are seeking interdisciplinary thinkers who have experience in practice-based research with communities, at the intersection between design, grassroots movements and climate action. Fields of specialisation may include participatory design, design activism, design anthropology, strategic communications, social movements studies, cultural and media studies or other areas deemed relevant.

Job Duties

- Project management, including setting-up budgets, data processes, project timelines and milestones
- To conduct and coordinate primary and secondary research and elaborate statistical and qualitative data for mapping and benchmarking
- To identify and onboard key organisations/community partners for delivering campaign activities
- To prepare, schedule and co-deliver workshops online and offline
- To coordinate the development of communication assets, and co-develop strategy for implementation
- To prepare, coordinate and deliver interventions with local partners
- To analyse, generate insights / themes and write up the reports in accordance with the project's deliverables requirements
- To assist in setting up project risk assessment, impact framework and evaluation measures
- 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 report to the principal investigator Dr Laura Santamaria (PI) in terms of project duties.

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 Laura Santamaria, and to Prof. Mikko Koria (Director for IDI) for administrative issues.

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 relevant research areas | 1 |
| | Evidence of strong project management experience | 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 work proactively and enthusiastically with the project partners and local community | 3 |
| | Excellent interpersonal, 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 academic and public contexts | 1 and 3 |
| | Strong visualisation 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, or conduct the work online as and when required | 1 |

Conditions of Service

The position is **full-time** and **fixed-term** for 12 months (term length will be reduced if candidate commences role post March 2021 due to funding restrictions. Salary will be on Specialist and Supporting Academic Research Grade 6 (£30,942– £40,322 per annum plus £3,204 London Allowance), 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/>