

Research Associate in *Urban & Regional Studies* *Healthy & Innovative Loughborough: The Impact Hub* Job Ref: REQ230028

As part of the University's ongoing commitment to redeployment, please note that this vacancy may be withdrawn at any stage of the recruitment process if a suitable redeployee is identified.

The Schools of Design and Creative Arts, and Architecture, Building and Civil Engineering are prominent in their respective fields. They provide a world-class environment for leading researchers and practitioners. People who work there are responsive, persuasive innovators of change, able to instigate creative, intelligent responses to a variety of contemporary global challenges.

Project Description

The position supports research and impact activity for 'The Impact Hub' (TIH) interdisciplinary project, under the auspices of the wider Healthy & Innovative Loughborough (H&IL) project funded by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) via the Loughborough Town Deal project. TIH intends to establish a town observatory to record and monitor change occurring in Loughborough from the implementation of the Town Investment Plan and to support future evidence-based decision-making and sustainable regional development. A post-doctoral research associate is required for 39 months to support this work and to contribute original research and impact activities. The postholder will work closely with the project leads (PLs), Dr Robert Harland, Dr Falli Palaiologou and Dr Asya Natapov, to develop TIH and will play a key role in engaging with the wider team of LU academics and external partners. H&IL aims to exploit the University's expertise in research, enterprise and knowledge to address specific problems identified in the Loughborough Town Investment Plan by:

- providing support for business innovation, entrepreneurship, and growth;*
- inspiring people to develop active and healthy lifestyles;*
- understanding the town's problems and promoting revitalisation of its centre.*

Job Description

Job Grade: Specialist and Supporting Academic Grade 6

Job Purpose

The research associate will be responsible for the day-to-day operation of 'The Impact Hub' project.

Job Duties

- Manage the day-to-day activity of 'The Impact Hub' project, in particular, liaising with the PLs, the Partnership Development Manager for H&IL, two TIH doctoral researchers, the Council Research Officer and external partners, through the organisation of events, workshops and working with stakeholders as required.

- Organise and deliver community engagement activities with local residents and stakeholders, including consultation forums on Town Deal interventions, focus groups, participatory workshops, training sessions, etc.
- Design, distribute and analyse questionnaire surveys and conduct interviews.
- Analyse policy documents and urban regeneration strategies to assess their impact on local communities and stakeholders.
- Collect, manage, analyse and visualise geospatial data.
- Organise field trips, site visits and surveys as required.
- Conduct desktop research, review theoretical and methodological developments in urban and regional studies, transdisciplinary design, participatory design, and other topics as appropriate.
- Be responsible alongside the PLs for gathering data for research grant applications.
- 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.
- 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.
- Contribute ideas for new research and innovation 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 Schools.
- 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 Dr Robert Harland, Reader.

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 urban/regional studies, urban regeneration, design studies (or relevant)	1, 3	
	Experience of undertaking research with external collaborators	1, 3	
	Experience of developing and conducting questionnaire surveys, workshops and / or focus groups	1, 3	
	Authoring original work for academic journal papers, conference papers or technical reports	1, 3	
Skills and abilities	Undertake the duties and responsibilities of the post.	1, 3	
	Competence in geospatial data management and analysis	1,3	
	Qualitative and quantitative research skills	1, 3	
	Work independently and as part of a team	3	
	Written and oral communication skills	1, 3	
	Self-motivation with ability to meet deadlines	3	
	Interpersonal, and organisational skills	3	
	Willingness to travel as required (e.g. conferences, project team meetings)	3	
	Write project reports and make accessible presentations to diverse audiences (industrial, academic research groups, non-specialist, etc.)	1, 3	
	Training	Evidence of having undertaken further training	1, 3
	Qualifications	PhD (or near completion)	1
	Other	Commitment to observing the University's Equal Opportunities policy at all times.	3
Willingness to work across two Schools in the University.		3	

Desirable Criteria

Area	Criteria	Stage
Experience	Production of technical reports and / or policy guidance documents on urban/regional planning topics	1, 3
	Design and delivery of community engagement activities	1, 3
	Developing proposals for funding from external agencies	1, 3
	Working in a high quality academic research environment	1, 3
Skills and abilities	Working knowledge of statistical analysis software (SPSS, R, or similar)	1, 3

	Acquaintance with graphic design software and other suitable programmes	1, 3
Qualifications	PhD (or near completion) in Urban Planning, Urban Geography, Urban Design, Design Studies, or similar	1

Conditions of Service

The position is full time and fixed term until March 2026. Salary will be on SSA Contract and Grade 6, £32,348 – £42,155 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 Staff Grades 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/>

Applications

The closing date for receipt of applications is **10 February 2023**. Interviews will be held week commencing 20 March 2023.