

Research Associate in Data Visualisation for Urban Studies

Job Ref: REQ240739

As part of the University's ongoing commitment to redeployment, please note that this vacancy may be withdrawn at any stage of the recruitment process if a suitable redeployee is identified.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 Architecture, Building and Civil Engineering and Design and Creative Arts 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 various 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 is establishing a town observatory to record and monitor changes occurring in Loughborough from the implementation of the Town Investment Plan and to support future evidence-based decision-making and sustainable regional development.

The Research Associate will be based at the School of Design and Creative Arts and will undertake research within the area of urban heritage, digital planning, storytelling, and co-design strategies for a town level observatory. Specifically, the role requires a strong interest in digital platforms and dashboards, and the ability to support others undertaking projects utilising the same or similar digital platforms.

The Research Associate will work closely with the TIH Project Leads, the TIH Research Associate, the TIH Research Officer and Doctoral Researchers to contribute to the formulation and submission of research publications and research proposals as well as help manage and direct the TIH.

Job Description

Job Grade: Specialist and Supporting Academic Grade 6

Job Purpose

The Research Associate will be responsible for developing ArcGIS platforms for maps, graphs, and spatial and storytelling data as part of the Loughborough Town Observatory. This will include supporting associated projects within the Healthy and Innovative Loughborough project and new initiatives locally, nationally, and globally. This will involve the practical knowledge to integrate and consolidate several platforms such as (1) Colouring London; (2) ArcGIS Web; and (3) ArcGIS Storymap. Additionally, the purpose is to facilitate the creation of case studies on the platforms from third parties engaged with the activities of The Impact Hub and self-initiated projects.

Job Duties

- *Conduct comprehensive reviews of local datasets identifying relevant and reliable data sources for Loughborough Town and the East Midlands region.*
- *Develop analytical spatial tools and visualisations to support stakeholders in decision-making on local and regional strategies and planning work.*

- *Communicate findings and recommendations effectively through data visualisation, reports, and presentations.*
- *Undertake data analysis and management training and ethical research training provided by Loughborough University and Charnwood Borough Council to understand the risks and regulations of collecting, storing and sharing data.*
- *Support the PLs and TIH team in research and outreach, and work towards academic and non-academic publications, as required.*
- 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 in the establishment of relationships with new collaborators.
- 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, CBC (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 Equity, Diversity and Inclusion policy and procedures at all times. Duties must be carried out in accordance with relevant Equity, Diversity and Inclusion 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 in Urban Graphic Heritage.

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	Working with large databases	1, 3
	Participating in research projects with external collaborators	1, 3
	Demonstrate strong interest in urban design, public realm, retail and/or other relevant research areas.	1, 3
	Undertaking community activities for social engagement, co-production and co-design of outputs suitable for urban observatory digital platforms.	
Skills and abilities	Spatial data analytics and visualisation, modelling and data analysis expertise in a suitable environment such as <i>ArcGIS</i>	1, 3
	Sufficient breadth and/or depth of knowledge in specialist subject and of qualitative research methods and techniques to work within the subject area	1, 3
	Ability to work independently and as part of a team	3
	Excellent written and oral communication skills	1, 3
	Self-motivated with ability to meet deadlines	3
	Excellent interpersonal, and organisational skills	3
	Willingness to travel as required (e.g. project team meetings and project dissemination events)	3
Training	Demonstrate evidence of having undertaken further training	1, 3
Qualifications	PhD in a relevant discipline such as Digital Design, Urban Design, Town Planning, Geography, Computer Science, or information Design, or other relevant or equivalent qualifications.	1
Other	Commitment to observing the University's Equal Opportunities policy at all times	3
	Commitment to observing the University's Ethical Policy Framework	3

Desirable Criteria

Area	Criteria	Stage
Experience	Computer vision background / Image processing and traditional computer vision	1, 3
	Experience in developing geospatial data processing pipelines	1, 3
	Experience with mobility spatial analysis	1, 3
	Excellent communication skills with a high standard of spoken and written English.	1, 3

Skills and abilities	Working knowledge of interoperability requirements across geospatial software packages	1, 3
	Independent and high-quality research skills, ideally in the field of urban or mobility planning or related disciplines.	1, 3
Qualifications	PhD in relevant disciplines	1

Conditions of Service

The position is full-time and fixed term for 15 months starting no later than 31 November 2024. Salary will be on SSA Contract and Grade 6, £33,966– £44,263 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/>