

Research Associate in Community-centered data and knowledge transfer

Project title: Community-Centered Modeling of Housing Related Health Disparities

Job Ref: REQ250825

As part of the University's ongoing commitment to redeployment, please note that this vacancy may be withdrawn at any stage of the recruitment process if a suitable redeployee is identified.

Research and teaching in the School of Architecture, Building and Civil Engineering (ABCE) is driven by 81 academic staff, 34 technical and clerical support staff, 40 contract researchers and over 120 doctoral students. The School benefits by having academic staff from a wide variety of backgrounds, with a resulting rich diversity of perspectives.

The undergraduate programmes include Civil Engineering, Construction Engineering Management, Commercial Management and Quantity Surveying, Architectural Engineering and Design Management, Architecture, Air Transport Management, and Transport and Business Management. In all courses the academic content is directly aligned to the needs of the industry and there is a high level of sponsorship in our portfolio of programmes. Our record of graduate employment is second to none and we have been ranked 1st or 2nd in the National Student Survey for the last 6 years. Further information may be found from - www.lboro.ac.uk/departments/abce/

In the 2021 Research Excellence Framework, the School was ranked second in the Architecture and Built Environment Unit of Assessment with over 90% of the work judged as either "world leading" or "internationally excellent". Importantly, this was achieved whilst still returning 100% of staff; world class research pervades the School. The research environment was ranked first overall - Loughborough is the best place in which to build a career in research. The international standing of our research is exemplified by our growing portfolio of collaborations with other leading universities and research institutes worldwide. These include: the UNSW Sydney, University of California at Berkeley, MIT, Tsinghua, Hong Kong, RMIT, to name a few. We are equally proud of our collaborations with industry where we count organisations such as Aecom, HS2, CH2M, Arup, Willmott Dixon, BRE, and Anglia Water, amongst others. For more on our research go to:

www.lboro.ac.uk/departments/abce/research/

Project Description

The ***Community-Centered Modeling of Housing Related Health Disparities*** (ComDisp) project is supported through Belmont Forum, with the UK segment of the project funded by NERC. This project is led by Dr Jason von Meding from the University of Florida, and is a collaboration between seven universities from the UK, USA, Norway, Ecuador, Turkey, and Viet Nam.

Around the world, climate change impacts fall disproportionately on those already marginalized in society. Natural hazards are being modified by climate change (e.g. extreme heat, storms, flooding) and result in adverse impacts on human health, ecosystems and infrastructure. The homes people inhabit contribute to their risk. Poor housing conditions combine with environmental phenomena to create chronic conditions of public health that risk, manifesting as health disparities in respiratory and cardiovascular illnesses. The ComDisp consortium will undertake community-centered research that develops a collaborative, iterative process for grassroots modeling of health disparities with predictive capability across climate change scenarios.

It responds to health disparities related to housing conditions in the USA, Vietnam, Turkey and Ecuador - with broad relevance in every global society - where living environments are shaped by historical and contemporary injustices. The project end-users are populations who live in housing situations with high risk of climate change impacts. We are particularly focused on the elderly, children, low-income communities, and individuals that have pre-existing health conditions. In each case study location, we will leverage existing partnerships with non-academic stakeholders to include local governments (land use, housing, public health), community health & housing organizations, and climate change action advocates. Although our project will undertake research in 4 countries, the case studies are strongly connected by a focus on how housing conditions are affected by climate change and impact on the health of inhabitants. Pilot research in Jacksonville, USA, has developed an initial process for community-centered modeling, to be adapted in each location. Consortium members will share our range of skills, resources and knowledge, and PhD students supported by the project will gain experience across the network while affected communities will learn from each other and grow together.

The Research Associate will join Prof Ksenia Chmutina at Loughborough University to develop novel and just approaches to community centered data and knowledge transfer. Loughborough will work together with the project partners and case study communities, ensuring cross-learning and knowledge translation. Experience with knowledge transfer is now required, but experience with working on interdisciplinarity projects and with marginalized communities is desirable.

Job Description

Job Grade: Specialist and Supporting Academic Grade 6

Job Purpose

The Research Associate will be responsible for coordination of knowledge production approaches and the development of community-centered data and knowledge transfer strategies.

Job Duties

- To work with four case study leads in the USA, Ecuador, Turkey, and Viet Nam to create cross-project learning
- To develop equity focused data and knowledge transfer strategy as well as dissemination strategy
- To support community-based scenario analysis and work closely with marginalized communities, government officials, and other relevant stakeholders to ensure equitable knowledge production.
- To apply community participatory methodologies in supporting project partners' community work.
- To support the creation and writing out outputs for different beneficiaries (e.g. communities, academics, policy makers)
- To work with all project partners and their researchers as well as external partners, as required
- To be responsible for conducting the day-to-day running of the project.
- 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.
- To write up regular progress reports and present outcomes to all Investigators and Collaborators.
- To travel internationally to attend meetings and make presentations both within the project partners working group and to external stakeholders.
- Communicate findings and recommendations effectively through data visualisation, reports, academic publications, and other relevant media.
- To attend and contribute to conferences as well as help with conference organizations
- 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 Equity, Diversity & Inclusion policy and procedures at all times. Duties must be carried out in accordance with relevant Equity, Diversity & Inclusion legislation and University policies/procedures.

Successful completion of probation will be dependent on attendance at the University's mandatory courses which include Belonging and Inclusion, Health & Safety, etc.

Organisational Responsibility

Reports to Prof Ksenia Chmutina

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 working with non-academic communities	1, 3
	Academic experience of working on an interdisciplinary project	1,2,3
	Experience of writing/ producing non-academic outputs to disseminate/ communicate/ carry out research	1,2,3
	Authoring original work for academic journal papers, conference papers or technical reports	1,3
Skills and abilities	Excellent written and oral communication skills	1,3
	Ability to lead and co-author interdisciplinary research outputs	1,3
	Self-motivated with ability to meet deadlines	1,3
	Excellent interpersonal, and organisational skills	1,3
	Working knowledge of participatory and community engagement methods	1,3
	Ability to write project reports and make technical presentations to industrial and academic research groups	1,2,3
	Knowledge of relevant Health & Safety issues	1,3
Training	Demonstrate evidence of having undertaken further training	1

Qualifications	PhD (or near completion)	1
Other	Commitment to observing the University's Equal Opportunities policy at all times.	1,3
	Willingness to travel internationally and work independently	3

Desirable Criteria

Area	Criteria	Stage
Experience	Experience of working with international academic and non-academic partners	1,3
	Experience of working with vulnerable populations	1,3
	Experience of creating scenarios	
	Developing dissemination strategies	1,3
	Developing proposals for funding from external agencies	1,3
	Working in a high-quality academic research environment	1
	Experience of teaching and / or supervision of students in relevant areas	1
Skills and abilities	Authoring original work, in the highest quality referred academic journals	1
	A strong publication track record	1
	Understanding of disaster scholarship and knowledge production	1,3

Conditions of Service

The position is PART TIME, 0.8 FTE and FIXED TERM for 18 months initially. Salary will be on Specialist and Supporting Academic (Research) Grade 6 (£35,116 - £45,413), 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 12 October 2025.