

Research Associate in Information Management for People-led Net-Zero

Job Ref: REQ251116

As part of the University's ongoing commitment to redeployment, please note that this vacancy may be withdrawn at any stage of the recruitment process if a suitable redeployee is identified.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

Join the Wolfson School of Mechanical, Electrical and Manufacturing Engineering at Loughborough University, where you will play a central role in an ambitious transdisciplinary research collaboration with the Universities of Bath, Sheffield, Strathclyde and a range of industry partners. This is an exciting opportunity to contribute to a pioneering, multi-institutional project that brings together diverse expertise to tackle complex real-world challenges. Based within one of the UK's leading engineering schools, you will be part of a vibrant research community while working across institutional boundaries to create innovative, high-impact outcomes to advance a just and timely transition to net zero.

Loughborough University is seeking an outstanding and motivated Postdoctoral Researcher to join an ambitious, transdisciplinary research programme dedicated to enabling a people-led, practical, systems-based approach to achieving a timely and just transition to net zero. This role forms part of a major multi-institution Flagship Programme focused on [People-Led Net Zero](#) (P-LNZ). The flagship is driven by one vision: to design and embed people-centred, fit-for-purpose modelling tools and insights that accelerate organisational transitions to net zero while ensuring environmental, economic and social resilience.

The challenges we will address build on a people-led lens, where we aim to understand why people might not be adopting system modelling approaches, what people need to know and when and how diverse users can engage with the model and/or the outputs. Addressing these challenges will provide a people-led approach to modelling net zero, where stakeholders such as decision makers can identify the positive and unintended consequences of their net zero transition:

Challenge 1: Providing a means to determine when to use system models i.e. when does systems modelling not add value and how do we know this.

Challenge 2: Identifying common and unique, factors/rules to include in the creation of fit-for-purpose model(s) for individual contexts.

Challenge 3: Evaluating people-led metrics to ascertain likelihood of uptake and sustained use of system models.

Challenge 4: Creating a means to ensure rules and approaches remains fit-for-purpose.

Job Description

Job Grade: Specialist and Supporting Academic Research Grade 6

You will play a central role in understanding, designing, and evaluating how **information, data, and system insights** can be effectively created, communicated, and adopted by diverse stakeholders involved in net-zero transitions.

You will work across several **real-world test cases**—including novel manufacturing, local government decarbonisation initiatives, and large-scale decommissioning settings—and contribute to the development of models, success metrics, and information-flow frameworks that support people-led decision-making.

The programme is highly collaborative, with researchers working as a **cohesive cohort** across work packages. You will engage directly with industry, government partners, and academic teams to co-create systems modelling approaches that are actionable, adoptable, and grounded in human needs.

Job Duties

- To conduct research into information management practices, stakeholder needs, and barriers/enablers in complex net-zero transitions.
- Analyse information flows, data requirements, digital tools, and human-centred success metrics for system modelling.
- To collaborate with researchers from the Centre to design, plan and undertake empirical research with relevant stakeholders
- To contribute to the co-creation of current- and future-state system models within multiple test cases.
- Participate in design and evaluation of fit-for-purpose modelling rules and decision-support tools.
- To develop, test and validate the proposed methods/interventions with industry partners as appropriate.
- Work with cross-disciplinary colleagues to translate research outputs into organisational practice.
- 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.
- Write up regular progress reports and present outcomes to all Investigators and Collaborators.
- 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, dissemination across industry and public engagement events.
- Contribute ideas for new research and enterprise directions.
- Maintain confidentiality at all times and ensure that intellectual property (IPR) agreements are not violated.
- To assist the academic staff in the project team with the supervision of undergraduate MSc and PhD project work and day-to-day supervision and support of other researchers.
- Where appropriate, to deliver teaching, tutorial and laboratory sessions to students.
- 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 policy and procedures at all times. Duties must be carried out in accordance with relevant Equity & Diversity 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 and, where appropriate, Recruitment and Selection.

Organisational Responsibility

Reports to the to Professor of Transdisciplinary Design Engineering.

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 Information Management, Systems Engineering, Human Factors, or related area.	1, 3
	Conducting research in engineering domain	1, 2, 3
	Working in a high quality academic research environment	1, 3
	Authoring original work for academic journal papers, conference papers or technical reports	1
	Undertake field work with external collaborators	1, 3
Skills and abilities	Strong skills in qualitative and/or quantitative research , such as stakeholder analysis, socio-technical methods, system modelling, information audits, or data analysis.	1, 2, 3
	Excellent written and oral communication skills	1, 2, 3
	Self-motivated with ability to meet deadlines	1, 3
	Excellent interpersonal, and organisational skills	1, 3
	Working knowledge of software packages [word processing, presentation, and data analysis software packages]	1, 3
	Ability to write project reports and make technical presentations to industrial and academic research groups	1, 2
	Knowledge of relevant Health & Safety issues	1, 3
Training	Demonstrate evidence of having undertaken further training	1, 3
Qualifications	PhD (or near completion) in Systems Engineering or related subject.	1
Other	Commitment to observing the University's Equal Opportunities policy at all times.	3
	Travel / Able to travel Independently	1, 3

Desirable Criteria

Area	Criteria	Stage
Experience	Knowledge of net-zero policy, carbon modelling, or organisational transitions.	1, 2, 3
	Experience working in applied industry, government, or interdisciplinary research settings.	1, 3
	Developing proposals for funding from external agencies	1, 3
	Experience of teaching and / or supervision of students in relevant areas	1, 3

Skills and abilities	Authoring original work, in the highest quality refereed academic journals	1
	A strong publication track record	1
	Managing multiple project stakeholders	1, 2, 3
	Facilitating workshops, interviews or co-creation sessions.	1, 3
Qualifications	Distinction or Merit Masters level degree in Engineering or related subject.	1
Other	Collaborative and team working	1, 3

Conditions of Service

The position is FULL TIME and FIXED TERM for 24 months. Salary will be on Specialist and Supporting Academic Research Grade 6, £35,608 to £44,746 **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/>