

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

Job Ref: REQ260726

School summary:

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.

Project Description: 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 Family and Grade: Specialist and Supporting Academic Grade 6

Job Purpose

You will play a central role in understanding, designing, and evaluating how **system maps and models** can be effectively created, communicated, and adopted by diverse stakeholders involved in net-zero transitions. More specifically, we are interested in system mapping approaches can be used to ensure complex value models are accessible and actionable to different stakeholders. You will develop, validate and demonstrate methods for creating stakeholder-centred system maps that support decision-making, intervention planning and identification of unintended consequences.

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 approaches that support people-led decision-making for net-zero transition. The programme is highly collaborative, with researchers working as a **cohesive cohort** across work packages. You will be responsible for delivering high-quality research outputs and industry-ready deliverables that support practical adoption of the research.

Job Duties

- Investigate approaches for creating stakeholder-centred system maps to support decision-needs.
- Develop repeatable methods for identifying interdependencies, feedback loops and intervention opportunities.
- Collaborate with researchers from the Centre and test-case partners to design, plan and undertake empirical research with relevant stakeholders.
- Work with cross-disciplinary colleagues to translate research outputs into organisational practice e.g. develop guidance, prototype digital tools and best-practice documents that enable uptake beyond the project.
- 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 outlined in the document.

Organisational Responsibility

Reports to the: Professor of Transdisciplinary Design Engineering.

Direct Reports: N/A

Budget Responsibilities: N/A

Person Specification

Your application will be assessed based on the essential and desirable criteria listed below.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to explicitly demonstrate how they meet each essential (and desirable) criteria at the application stage. The criteria that you need to demonstrate in your application will be listed as Stage 1 in the table below.

Stages of assessment are as follows:

- 1 – Criteria measured at Application
- 2 – Criteria measured at Test/Assessment Centre/Presentation
- 3 - Criteria measured at 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 engagement, socio-technical methods, system modelling, information modelling, 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 challenges, complex systems mapping, 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 appointment will be subject to the [University's Terms and Conditions of Employment](#) relevant to the job grade.

Shared University Responsibilities

As a member of the Loughborough community, you are expected to:

- Take reasonable care of yourself, others and the environment, and to prevent harm by your acts or omissions. All staff are therefore required to adhere to the University's Health, Safety and Environmental Sustainability Policies & Procedures.
- Support and contribute to the University's commitment to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI), while carrying out all duties in a way that respects these principles and upholds the right to free expression. Further information about EDI at Loughborough and our strategic aims is available on our website

Our Purpose, Vision, and Values

Our purpose, Vision and Values underpin all that we do and shape how we work together at Loughborough.

We're proud to promote our values: **Adventurous, Collaborative, Creative, Authentic** and **Responsible**. Our people bring these values to life every day, and they are central to the positive and supportive culture that makes Loughborough unique.

If you join us, you'll be encouraged to bring these values to life in your own work and contribute to the positive, supportive culture that makes Loughborough unique.

Read more about our [vision and values](#).

Our Accreditations



We 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.



We are proud to be a [Race Equality Charter Member](#). The Charter aims to improve the representation, progression and success of all minority ethnic staff and students within higher education and address issues of racism within higher education institutions (HEIs).



We are proud to be a Disability Confident Employer and have adopted a proactive approach to employing disabled people and to creating a more diverse workforce. We ensure that our recruitment processes are inclusive and accessible. We guarantee to offer an interview to all applicants who have declared themselves with a disability, provided they meet the essential criteria for a role. We proactively anticipate and provide reasonable adjustments and support existing employees who acquire a disability or long-term condition to thrive in the workplace.



We are a real living wage employer, and our Living Wage Employer Mark shows our commitment to paying our staff according to the cost of living.



We are proud supporters of the [City of Sanctuary movement](#) and delighted to be recognised as a University of Sanctuary. This national network brings together, university staff, lecturers, academics and students, who together work to make Higher Education institutions place of safety, solidarity and empowerment for people seeking sanctuary.

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.