School of Architecture, Building and Civil Engineering

Research Assistant in Beat The Heat project

Job Ref: REQ260817

School summary:

Research and teaching in the School of Architecture Building and Civil Engineering is driven by 80 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 Architecture, Civil Engineering, Construction Engineering Management, Commercial Management and Quantity Surveying, Architectural Engineering and Design Management, 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 is available at: http://www.lboro.ac.uk/departments/abce/

The School of Architecture, Building and Civil Engineering delivers zero-carbon, resilient buildings, infrastructure and cities in a world under pressure from rising urban populations, ageing infrastructure, resource constraints and multiple hazards. In the 2021 Research Excellence Framework (REF), Loughborough University ranked second place for Architecture, Built Environment and Planning and the research undertaken in the School was rated ‘world-leading’.

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, Chongqing, Hong Kong, Iowa State, Oklahoma State, RMIT, Georgia State and Penn State.

We are equally proud of our collaborations with industry such as HS2, Mace, Skanska, Aecom, Arup, Willmott Dixon, BRE, Anglia Water and many others, as well as influential organisations such as the Construction Leadership Council (CLC), Constructing Excellence, BSI and others. Built Environment research is increasingly informing government policy through, for example, the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and The Committee on Climate Change, and working with for organisations such as the NHS, HS2, Network Rail and others. For more on our research go to: http://www.lboro.ac.uk/departments/abce/research/

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Project Description: The researcher will join the Beat The Heat project, led by Dr Ben Roberts with Dr Efi Spentzou, Prof. Rob Wilby; and colleagues from Ghana and Sweden. The project is funded by the Higher Education Innovation Fund. The Beat The Heat project will generate and record impact from the British Academy VEWEC and REFIT projects.

The overall aim of this project is to improve the well-being of the urban poor by demonstrating how low-cost modifications to homes, workplaces and community spaces can reduce direct and indirect threats from extreme heat, both now and under projected climate change.

There are three key objectives:

- Build an 'ideal home' in one of the communities to demonstrate how the design, orientation, building materials and ventilation of a structure can be adapted to reduce indoor temperatures.

- Implement small-scale, affordable and culturally appropriate retrofitting of one home, workplace or community meeting space in each settlement to demonstrate how indoor heat can be reduced in existing dwellings.

- Produce five short web documentaries (a web docu-series) to illustrate the retrofitting process and thereby extend the reach of practical knowledge of how indoor temperatures can be reduced in low-income homes and workplaces.

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Job Description

Job Family and Grade: Specialist and Supporting Academic Grade 5

Job Purpose

The Research Assistant will support the research impact generation activities of Dr Roberts, Dr Spentzou, and Prof. Wilby alongside Ghanaian and Swedish partners on the Beat The Heat project.

Job Duties

- Assist with all data cleaning and analysis duties as instructed.
- Assist in the day-to-day running of the project.
- To feed back to the project team on progress, to assist in making recommendations for next steps.
- Assist in the writing up of a final progress report for the Accelerator team.
- Always maintain confidentiality 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.

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: Dr Ben Roberts, Senior Lecturer in Healthy Buildings, School of Architecture, Building and Civil Engineering
Direct Reports: N/A
Budget Responsibilities: N/A

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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	Experience of data analysis, data cleaning, and data handling	1,3
	Knowledge of writing for publications and outputs	1,3
Skills and abilities	Good written and oral communication skills	1,3
	Self-motivated with ability to meet deadlines	1,3
	Able to manage time and task effectively to meet project deadline and prioritise workload with minimum supervision	1,3
	Able to build and maintain effective working relationships with academic colleagues and external partners to support collaborative research and communication of findings.	1,3
	Working knowledge of MS Office software packages	1
	Ability to assist the writing of project reports	1,3
Training	A willingness to undertake training as appropriate	1,3
Qualifications	Bachelors degree or higher	1
Other	Demonstrate an ability to behave in a way that adheres to equitable and inclusive working practices, while respecting diversity of thought and supporting freedom of speech and expression.	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 principles of equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) while carrying out all duties, behaving in a manner that treats others with dignity and respect and upholds every persons right to lawful freedom of expression, freedom of speech and academic freedom. Further information about EDI at Loughborough and our strategic aims is available on our website.

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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.

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