



THE POST

College:	College of Life and Environmental Sciences (http://lifesciences.exeter.ac.uk/)
Post:	Research Fellow
Reference No:	P44045
Grade:	F
HERA:	RFEL
Reporting To:	Dr. Nick Gill

Responsible For: Literature reviews, contacting and recruiting law firms, networking with project consultants and steering group members, drafting freedom of information requests (FIRs), setting up systems of team communication, participating in and sometimes leading reading groups, carrying out ethnographic work at a UK court, keeping a research diary, completing structured proformas at a UK court involving the observation of a minimum of 125 cases, recruiting for, and conducting, 70 interviews with legal professionals, asylum support workers and asylum seekers themselves, helping to organise dissemination events and preparing and depositing data for archiving.

The above full-time post is available from 7th January 2013 to 6th January 2016 in the School of Geography, College of Life and Environmental Sciences.

Job Description

The College wishes to recruit a Research Fellow to support the work of Dr. Nick Gill. This unique ESRC funded post is available from 7th January 2013 until 6th January 2016. The successful applicant will become part of a dynamic research team based at Exeter University (Streatham campus) with links to legal scholars at both Plymouth University and University College London. They will work at Exeter University for most of the post but will also conduct a 3-month ethnography of an immigration court in the UK and another 6-month detailed observation of a different court in the UK, living away from Exeter for a total of 9 months out of the 36 month post.

Main purpose of the job:

To support the work of Dr. Nick Gill in investigating disparities in asylum appeal success rates at different immigration courts around the UK

Main duties and accountabilities:

1. To undertake research as appropriate to the field of study including:
 - Conducting literature reviews
 - Contacting and recruiting law firms
 - Networking with project partners
 - Participating in and sometimes leading reading groups
 - Recruiting for, and conducting, interviews with legal professionals including elite legal practitioners, asylum support workers and asylum seekers themselves.
 - Independently conducting ethnographic work and participant observation of courts around the UK
 - Writing up research work for publication;
 - Helping to organise dissemination events
 - Preparing and depositing data for archiving

- Acting as principal investigator on research projects, if required;
 - Developing research objectives, projects and proposals;
 - Conducting individual or collaborative research projects;
 - Identifying sources of funding and contributing to the process of securing funds;
 - Extending, transforming and applying knowledge acquired from scholarship to research and appropriate external activities;
 - Writing or contributing to publications or disseminating research findings using media appropriate to the discipline;
 - Making presentations at conferences or exhibiting work in other appropriate events;
 - Assessing, interpreting and evaluating outcomes of research;
 - Developing new concepts and ideas to extend intellectual understanding;
 - Resolving problems of meeting research objectives and deadlines;
 - Developing ideas for generating income and promoting research area;
 - Developing ideas for application of research outcomes;
 - Deciding on research programmes and methodologies, often in collaboration with colleagues and sometimes subject to the approval of the head of the research programme on fundamental issues.
2. To contribute to teaching and learning programmes in the School and to supervise postgraduate research students, if required.
3. To act as research team leader including:
- Mentoring colleagues with less experience and advising on their professional development;
 - Coaching and supporting colleagues in developing their research techniques;
 - Supervising the work of others, for example in research teams or projects;
 - Developing productive working relationships with other members of staff;
 - Co-ordinating the work of colleagues to ensure equitable access to resources and facilities;
 - Dealing with standard problems and help colleagues to resolve their concerns about progress in research.
4. To routinely communicate complex and conceptual ideas to those with limited knowledge as well as to peers using high level skills and a range of media and to present the results of scientific research to sponsors and at conferences.
5. To plan, co-ordinate and implement research programmes including:
- Managing the use of research resources and ensure that effective use is made of them;
 - Managing research budgets, if required;
 - Helping to plan and implement commercial and consultancy activities, if required;
 - Planning and managing own consultancy assignments, if required.

This job description summarises the main duties and accountabilities of the post and is not comprehensive: the post-holder may be required to undertake other duties of similar level and responsibility. Please visit the Human Resources website to view the Research Fellow role profiles.

Person Specification

Competency	Essential	Desirable
Attainments/Qualifications	Be a nationally recognised authority in the subject area. PhD or equivalent in a related field of study.	Statistical literacy.
Skills and Understanding	Possess sufficient specialist knowledge in the discipline to develop research programmes and methodologies. Record of research output in nationally recognised publications.	Research background in the area of legal geography and/or forced migration.
Prior Experience	Experience of managing research projects and research teams.	Experience of acting as principal investigator on research projects.

	<p>Successful in obtaining grant funding.</p> <p>Experience of carrying out qualitative research including ethnography and/or participant observation.</p> <p>Experience of teaching at undergraduate level.</p>	<p>Experience of postgraduate teaching and supervision.</p>
Behavioural Characteristics	<p>Excellent written and verbal communication skills.</p> <p>Able to communicate complex and conceptual ideas to a range of groups.</p> <p>Evidence of the ability to collaborate actively within the Institution and externally to complete research projects and advance thinking.</p> <p>Able to participate in and develop external networks.</p> <p>Able to identify sources of funding, generate income, obtain consultancy projects, or build relationships for future activities.</p> <p>Able to balance the pressures of research, administrative demands and competing deadlines.</p>	
Circumstances		

Informal Enquiries

Before submitting an application you may wish to discuss the post further by contacting Dr. Nick Gill, Senior Lecturer in human Geography, telephone (01392 723333) or email n.m.gill@exeter.ac.uk.