

THE POST

College:	College of Medicine and Health
Post:	Postdoctoral Research Fellow (Coastal Communities and Health in South East Asia)
Reference No:	P58808
Grade:	F32
HERA:	RFEL
Reporting To:	Dr Mathew White, Dr Karyn Morrissey
Responsible For:	Assist in the supervision of a PhD and other students

Job Description

The above full-time, fixed term post is available from 7th January 2019 to 31st December 2021 in the European Centre for Environment and Human Health (ECEHH; www.ecehh.org) of the University of Exeter Medical School. This 3 year (36 month) post is part of the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) supported '**Blue Communities**' project, a collaboration between 3 UK institutions: Plymouth Marine Laboratory (PML, lead); the University of Exeter; and the University of Plymouth; and several institutions and non-governmental bodies across South East Asia including in Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam, and the Philippines.

The overall aim of the project is to: "*develop interdisciplinary research capability and lasting collaborations that facilitate innovative application of integrated planning in the marine environment within the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme and other marine parks and their communities in South East Asia, and respond to the UN Sustainable Development Goals of no poverty, zero hunger and good health and well-being for coastal communities through the sustainable use of marine resources*".

The current post will entail: a) the co-creation and analysis of population surveys to collect health and wellbeing related data from coastal communities, and b) supporting training programmes to increase capacity in survey research and analysis skills among our partner organisations in South East Asia. The successful candidate will work closely with Dr Mathew White (Environmental Psychologist) and Dr Karyn Morrissey (Environmental Economist), both of whom have extensive experience of designing and analysing large, international surveys on marine ecosystems services and health. A PhD Student (supervised by White & Morrissey) will also be working closely with the Research Fellow on the project.

The post holder will join a multi-disciplinary team on the project including (evidence synthesis, psychology, epidemiology, health geography, marine sciences and environmental/health economics) based at the University of Exeter Truro Campus (Cornwall, UK). The post holder will also be expected to collaborate extensively with several other colleagues in the University in Exeter in Cornwall (Truro and Penryn Campuses) as well as UK partners at PML and Plymouth University and our international partners in South East Asia. The post will involve travel to all collaborating countries for co-creation and analysis of surveys as well as training programme delivery.

Environment and Human Health more broadly is one of four research themes in the University of Exeter Medical School. It has established an excellent reputation for high quality educational programmes and has a high quality and expanding research portfolio. From the outset the School has sought to build an international research reputation, to complement its innovative educational programme, through tight focus on areas of strength.

All candidates must have a PhD in a quantitative social science including but not limited to psychology, economics, epidemiology, health research or equivalent research experience and knowledge. You will have knowledge and experience of designing, implementing, analysing and writing up results of, large-scale public surveys. Demonstrable knowledge of, including publications in, the domain of environment and human health is desirable. Applicants with experience in the field of marine eco-systems services and/or working in South East Asia are particularly encouraged to apply. You will have a proven record of quality research publications at, at least 2-3* with respect to the Higher Education Funding Council for England's Research Excellence Framework (REF).

Due to the nature of the project, we expect experience in or openness to working across disciplines and cultures, with excellent interpersonal skills. You must also have very good organisational and time management skills with meticulous attention to detail, and good verbal and written communications skills. In addition you must have successful team leadership skills with the ability to work well within a team. Applicants with experience working in South East Asia are particularly encouraged to apply.

Salary for this appointment will be at Spine Point F32 = £35,211 per annum (University of Exeter). The post is subject to final funding confirmation from RCUK.

Main purpose of the job:

'Blue Communities' is structured around 12 key 'Projects' including identifying best practice marine resource management, fisheries protection, climate modelling, scenario development, and governance support structures. The current Research Fellow will work mainly on **Project 6**: "*Assessment of the wellbeing benefits (e.g. reduced air pollution, fewer symptoms of anxiety and depression, greater levels of physical exercise, and stronger senses of community), and risks of coastal living associated with environmental change (e.g. land/water use, water salinity), demographic change (e.g. inward migration, changing age profiles) and climate change (rising temperatures and sea levels)*".

The post holder will explore these issues in all SE Asia partner countries working closely with local stakeholders and develop a generic survey, with bespoke local elements, that can collect data on these issues from local populations. The data will need to be analysed at both the country and region level by pooling data from across individual countries. The survey will need to contain items that allow economic evaluation of the risks and benefits to take place. The post-holder will support bespoke training programmes in these techniques in partner locations to be confirmed following needs assessment.

Main duties and accountabilities:

1. To undertake research as appropriate to the field of study including:
 - Acting as the main researcher for Project 6: i.e. mapping the risks and benefits of coastal living for health and wellbeing;
 - Acting as lead research on the development and analysis of the associated Blue Communities surveys, including gaining Ethical approval;
 - Deciding on the research approach and methodologies, in collaboration with internal and external colleagues, and subject to the approval of the head of the research programme on fundamental issues.
 - Survey design
 - Conducting these collaborative research projects;
 - Assessing, interpreting and evaluating outcomes of research using quantitative techniques;
 - Using statistical software for quantitative analysis
 - Resolving problems of meeting research objectives and deadlines;
 - Developing ideas for application of research outcomes;
 - Writing and contributing to publications and disseminating research findings using appropriate media;
 - Making presentations at conferences or exhibiting work in other appropriate events;
 - Developing new concepts and ideas to extend intellectual understanding;
 - 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;
 - Developing ideas for generating income and promoting research area;
2. 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;
- Helping to plan and implement commercial and consultancy activities;
- Planning and managing own consultancy assignments.

3. To act as research team leader including:

- Contribute to our capacity building goals by developing and delivering appropriate training programmes on the techniques used in Project 6 for partners in SE Asia where appropriate.
- Mentoring colleagues with less experience and advising on their professional development;
- 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 contribute to teaching and learning programmes in the School and to supervise postgraduate research students.

6. Support Dr Mat White & Karyn Morrissey coordinate the efforts of Project 6 with all other partners involved in the Blue Communities project.

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	PhD or equivalent qualification/experience in a related field of study (e.g. psychology, quantitative geography, economics, epidemiology).	Be a nationally recognized authority in their subject area.
Skills and Understanding	Strong quantitative skills especially in survey design and analysis. Previous use of statistical software preferably Stata or R Record of research outputs in nationally recognised publications. Ability to work sensitively with colleagues from different backgrounds and cultures	Experience of designing/analyzing international surveys. Understanding of the issues around interconnections between oceans and human health Evidence of research activity and published research as well as presentation and interactions at scientific conferences and other venues.
Prior Experience	Strong project management experience, including working with multiple sites, partners and research strands. Experience of field research working independently and making decisions in situ.	Experience of working on international collaborative research projects. Experience working with and living in South East Asia Experience of postgraduate teaching and supervision.

	<p>Experience running multi-cultural, multi-stakeholder interactive workshops.</p> <p>Experience of teaching, engagement and/or capacity building in cross-cultural settings.</p> <p>Experience of managing research budgets.</p> <p>Experience in applying for grant funding.</p>	<p>Experience of acting as principal investigator on research projects.</p> <p>Successful in obtaining grant funding.</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 balance the pressures of research, administrative demands and competing deadlines.</p> <p>Able to identify sources of funding, generate income, obtain consultancy projects, or build relationships for future activities.</p>	
Circumstances	<p>You will be expected to make several trips to South East Asia, both as part of a UK delegation and independently.</p>	

Informal Enquiries

Before submitting an application you may wish to discuss the post further by contacting Dr Mat White (Mathew.White@exeter.ac.uk; 01872 258131) or Dr Karyn Morrissey (Karyn.Morrissey@exeter.ac.uk; 01872 258155).

Terms & Conditions

Our Terms and Conditions of Employment can be viewed [here](#).

Further Information

Please see our [website](#) for further information on working at the University of Exeter.