

THE POST

College/Service:	College of Medicine and Health
Post:	Postdoctoral Research Associate
Reference No:	P68246
Grade:	E (sp26)
HEA:	ARF
Reporting To:	Dr Ben Wheeler
Responsible For:	N/A

The above full time, fixed term post is available immediately in the European Centre for Environment and Human Health (ECEHH; www.ecehh.org) of the University of Exeter College of Medicine and Health in Truro, Cornwall. This 3.5-year (44 month) post is available immediately and will contribute to the Horizon 2020 funded RECONNECT and REGREEN projects.

Job Description

Main purpose of the job:

This post will involve a variety of tasks across both RECONNECT and REGREEN, including evidence mapping and synthesis, scoping and analysis of secondary data, application of value transfer methodologies, and qualitative enquiry. The post will also involve the preparation of application for ethical approval, and the writing of reports and papers. The successful candidate will work closely with project investigators based at the European Centre for Environment and Human Health including Drs Rebecca Lovell, Ruth Garside, Conny Guell and Tim Taylor.

The two projects are closely related, and both involve the investigation of the health and wellbeing impacts of Nature Based Solutions. The RECONNECT project is a transdisciplinary and multi-sectoral partnership of researchers, industrial partners and authorities or agencies at local and watershed and regional level primarily across Europe. The aim of the project is to create a framework to support co-creation and collaboration around using Nature Based Solutions effectively for reducing hydro-meteorological risks. The project is led by IHE Delft Institute for Water Education in the Netherlands. For more information visit www.reconnect.eu/.

The multi-disciplinary REGREEN project aims to promote urban liveability, by systematically modelling and combining ecosystem services and biodiversity as the basis for Nature Based Solutions that can be widely deployed by public and private actors. The results will enable urban planners and policy makers to address climate change resilience, public health and well-being and social inclusion in cities in both Europe and China. The project is led by Aarhus University in Denmark.

The primary activities of the role relating to the RECONNECT project are to contribute to:

- An evidence mapping of the health benefits of Nature-Based Solutions for reducing hydro-meteorological risk;
- Application of benefit transfer and Health Impact Assessment methodologies to estimate the potential health impacts of interventions.

The primary activities of the role relating to the REGREEN project are to contribute to:

- Reviewing and integrating current knowledge on the quantification of multiple values and benefits from NBS and restored urban ecosystems;
- Developing understanding of how people perceive, interact with and respond to urban natural environments through exploration and integration of novel data resources and in-depth qualitative enquiry (including photovoice); and
- Assessing monetary and non-monetary values and benefits from restored and improved urban ecosystems in cities using a range of methodologies to capture the complex network of intervention impacts.

The post-holder will join a multi-disciplinary project team which includes individuals with expertise in sociology, psychology, epidemiology, health geography, and environmental/health economics. The post is based in the European Centre for Environment and Human Health (ECEHH), a research centre of the University of Exeter College of Medicine and Health. The Centre is an internationally leading research institution investigating the linkages between environments and health and wellbeing. The post holder will also collaborate with colleagues at partner organisations in Europe and China. The post will involve some international travel to partner organisations and research sites.

The RECONNECT project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 776866

The REGREEN project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 821016.

Main duties and accountabilities:

Ideally the candidate will have or be near completing a PhD, or will have appropriate research experience in a relevant subject including, but not limited to; health research, economics, sociology, psychology, geography or equivalent research experience and knowledge. Candidates will ideally have experience of both quantitative and qualitative research approaches. Demonstrable knowledge of, including publications in, the domain of Nature Based Solutions, or of the links between environment and human health is desirable.

With support from co-investigators, the post-holder will need to balance their time on the two projects, which are running simultaneously. This will require excellent organisational and time management skills with meticulous attention to detail, and good verbal and written communications skills. In addition, you must have the ability to work well within a team.

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. The typical person specification for an E-grade PDRA at the University of Exeter is available at <http://www.exeter.ac.uk/staff/exeteracademic/yourcareer/research/>

Main duties and accountabilities:

1. To undertake and support research as appropriate to the field of study including:
 - Writing up research work for publication;
 - Developing research objectives and proposals for own or joint research;
 - Making presentations at national and international conferences and similar events;
 - Dealing with problems which may affect the achievement of research objectives and deadlines;
 - Analysing and interpreting the results of own research and generating original ideas based on outcomes;
 - Using new research techniques and methods;
 - Using initiative and creativity to identify areas for research, developing new research methods and extending the research portfolio;
 - Using creativity to analyse and interpret research data and draw conclusions on the outcomes.
2. To contribute to teaching and to be involved in the assessment of student knowledge including assisting in the supervision of student projects and in the development of student research skills.
3. To work in collaboration with colleagues as appropriate to the field of study including:

- Contributing to collaborative decision making within the research group;
 - Contributing to the production of collaborative research reports and publications.
 - Preparing papers and presenting information on research progress and outcomes to bodies supervising research, e.g. steering groups.
4. To communicate complex information, orally, in writing and electronically.
 5. To prepare proposals and applications to external bodies, e.g. for funding and contractual purposes
 6. To contribute to the planning of research projects.
 7. To use research resources, laboratories and workshops as appropriate and to take responsibility for reducing hazards and for the health and safety of others. Where appropriate, will also be responsible for conducting risk assessments.
 8. To monitor research budgets as appropriate.
 9. To engage in continuous professional development and to be responsible for continually updating knowledge and understanding in field of study or specialism and for developing skills.

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 nearing completion) or equivalent qualification/experience in a related field of study.	Mixed-method or interdisciplinary PhD research.
Skills and Understanding	Knowledge of both quantitative and qualitative research methods and analysis. Experience of conducting evidence reviews using synthesis of both quantitative and qualitative evidence.	Experience of conducting quantitative and qualitative research (incl. participatory and/or visual methods). Experience of researching and valuing the linkages between environments and health.
Prior Experience	Experience of contributing to collaborative research projects.	Record of research output in good quality publications as well as presentation and interactions at scientific conferences and other venues. Experience of collaboration with research or project partners in Europe and beyond.
Behavioural Characteristics	Excellent written and verbal communication skills. Able to communicate material of a specialist or highly technical nature. Able to manage research and administrative activities and to balance the competing pressures	

	<p>of research and administrative demands and deadlines.</p> <p>Able to liaise with colleagues and students.</p> <p>Able to build contacts and participate in internal and external networks for the exchange of information and collaboration.</p> <p>Understand equal opportunity issues as they may impact on areas of research content</p>	
Circumstances	<p>Willing to work flexibly to achieve project demands.</p> <p>Ability to travel to international project meetings and research sites.</p>	

Informal Enquiries

Before submitting an application you may wish to discuss the post further by contacting Dr Ben Wheeler, Senior Lecturer, email b.w.wheeler@exeter.ac.uk.

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.