

THE POST

College: Life and Environmental Sciences (<http://lifesciences.exeter.ac.uk/>)

Post: Postdoctoral Research Associate

Reference No: R53462

Grade: E

Reporting To: Dr Hywel Williams

The above full-time post is available immediately for 12 months in the College of Life and Environmental Sciences.

Job Description

Main purpose of the job:

To analyse a variety of large and complex datasets drawn from different parts of the University's teaching activities, using statistical modelling and machine learning approaches to identify patterns and relationships. Core activities will involve scientific programming, data exploration/visualisation, and use of machine learning and/or statistical modelling techniques.

Main duties and accountabilities:

1. To undertake 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 conducting risk assessments, reducing hazards and for the health and safety of others.
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 relevant field of study.	
Skills and Understanding	Sufficient knowledge in the discipline and of research methods and techniques to work within established research programmes. Competence in programming, statistics and data analysis.	Evidence of research activity and published research. Knowledge of machine learning, statistical modelling and/or data analytics.
Prior Experience	Experience of data handling, analysis and visualisation.	Experience of learning and teaching in higher education.
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 of research and administrative demands and deadlines. Able to liaise with colleagues and students. Able to build contacts and participate in internal and external networks for the exchange of information and collaboration. Actively participate as a member of a research team Engage in continuous professional development. Understand equal opportunity issues as they may impact on areas of research content	
Circumstances		

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Informal Enquiries

Before submitting an application you may wish to discuss the post further by contacting Dr Hywel Williams, e-mail h.t.p.williams@exeter.ac.uk or telephone (01392) 723777.

Additional Information Relating to the Post

Salary

Salary will be circa £28,452 per annum on Grade E subject to knowledge, skills and experience.

An increment will be payable on 1 August each year until the top of the scale is reached (subject to being in post for 6 months and satisfactory performance). The scale will be subject to a cost of living review each year.

Hours of work

Full time appointments are contracted to work a 36.5 hour week, over five days, to suit the requirements of the College, as notified by the College Dean. The hours of part-time staff are specified in the letter of appointment.

Annual Leave

The annual leave entitlement for full-time appointments is 41 days per calendar year (pro rata for part-time appointments). For further information see our website <http://www.admin.ex.ac.uk/personnel/leave.shtml>.

Probationary Period

The appointment will normally be subject to a probationary period of one year.

References & Medical Clearance

All appointments are subject to satisfactory reference and medical checks and individuals will be required to complete a medical assessment form before appointment is confirmed. Applicants should note that the University normally contacts referees for short-listed applicants without further advice to applicants. When advising of referees, if they are resident overseas, please ensure you supply fax numbers and/or email addresses enabling us to contact them (if necessary) without delay.

Right to Work in the United Kingdom

We welcome all applicants and the diversity they bring. However, the nature of this role, the salary and the qualifications required, mean that immigration legislation will not allow the University to apply for a sponsorship certificate for this post. We strongly recommend that applicants that are non EEA nationals consult the Right to Work rules on the Home Office website at: www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk.

In particular you are encouraged to undertake a self assessment of your eligibility to work in the UK using the link to www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/pointscalculator.

Terms & Conditions

The Terms and Conditions of Employment can be viewed on line by visiting <http://www.exeter.ac.uk/staff/employment/conditions/terms/>

Pensions

Membership of the Universities' Superannuation Scheme (USS) is automatic provided that you meet the qualifying criteria for membership. For details on the scheme please go to the <https://forthefuture.uss.co.uk>. Staff automatically become members and employee contributions will be taken from your pay unless you opt out in accordance with the current rules of the scheme. More information about the USS scheme can be found at www.uss.co.uk/members. The University, as your employer, contributes such sums as will be required to maintain the full benefits of the scheme. You may opt out of the scheme and if you wish to do so, you should contact the Pensions and Reward Advisor, Mrs Alison Rose (01392 723088/email a.j.rose@exeter.ac.uk) for further information.

Relocation

You may be able to claim relocation expenses in accordance with the University's Relocation Assistance Scheme. The maximum allowance that you can reclaim under the Relocation Assistance Scheme, if eligible, is 10% of salary.

Short-listing Information

We will acknowledge your application by email. The University of Exeter recognises the time and effort taken to apply for a position and will contact you by email to inform you of results of shortlisting

Application Procedure and Interview Information

The closing date for completed applications is **25 September 2016**.

Data Protection Act (1998)

The information contained within your application is being requested to enable the University to make employment decisions and meet statutory obligations. Any information provided to the University in this context will be treated confidentially and used only by manager(s), member of the University, Human Resources, Superannuation and Payroll during the course of your employment. Where the application relates to a post which is externally funded this information may be passed onto the relevant funding body.