

THE POST

College:	<u>University of Exeter Medical School</u>
Post:	Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Evidence Synthesis for Oceans and Human Health
Reference No:	R58181
Grade:	F
HERA:	RFEL
Reporting To:	Dr Ruth Garside
Responsible For:	may assist in the supervision of a PhD and other students

The above full-time fixed term post is available for 8 months starting as soon as possible after October 1st 2018 in the University of Exeter Medical School.

The European Centre for Environment and Human Health (www.ecehh.org) of the University of Exeter Medical School to a fixed term full-time post for 8 months to support the EU-wide Horizon 2020-funded ‘Seas, Oceans and Public Health in Europe (**SOPHIE**): a Strategic Research Agenda for Europe and Beyond” project. Working with several partners across the EU, SOPHIE is being led by Prof. Lora Fleming at the ECEHH and its primary aims are to: a) deliver an Oceans and Human Health Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) within the European context, based on extensive involvement by diverse stakeholders; and b) ensure that the structures needed to develop and implement this SRA are in place and will exist as a legacy. As well as Dr Ruth Garside and this post holder, also in the SOPHIE team at ECEHH are survey activities led by Dr Mat White, a 0.5 FTE project manager and a full time PhD student working alongside the team for the duration.

The current post will conduct systematic mapping and synthesis of current evidence and policies on links between human health and the marine environment.

All candidates must have a PhD in evidence synthesis, psychology, sociology, epidemiology, health research, or a related discipline, or equivalent research experience and knowledge. You will have knowledge and experience of a range of research methods including systematic review and evidence synthesis. Experience in research design and analysis in the domain of health, wellbeing and/or the environment is desirable.

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). You must also have excellent 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.

Salary for this appointment will be on the scale of £33,943 - £36,001 per annum (University of Exeter). Point on scale will be determined by experience, research activities, publications and grant income and will be clarified following interview.

The post holder will be expected to collaborate with colleagues in the University in Exeter and in Cornwall (Truro and Penryn Campuses) as well as with the EU Partners throughout Europe in the Horizons 2020 funded SOPHIE Research Project from a base in the European Centre for Environment and Human health in Truro (Cornwall UK).

Environment and Human Health 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.

The South West has a wealth of opportunities for research in this area and the European Centre collaborates closely with the University of Exeter's Business School and Environment and Sustainability Institute; the Plymouth Marine Laboratory; the UK Met Office; the University of Plymouth Psychology Department; and University College Falmouth as well as other partners in the Peninsula and in Europe.

Main purpose of the job:

The Research Fellow will work collaboratively with the European Centre SOPHIE group and their EU Partner collaborators in the Horizons 2020 SOPHIE Project.

The recently funded Horizons 2020 **SOPHIE Consortium** brings together a multi-disciplinary team of experts reaching across all 28 European Union countries and beyond. The SOPHIE Project primary aims are to: a) deliver an Oceans and Human Health Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) within the European context, based on extensive involvement by diverse stakeholders; and b) ensure that the structures needed to develop and implement this SRA are in place and will exist as a legacy. **Oceans and Human Health** is a new meta-discipline which refers the potential risks, benefits and opportunities to the health of both humans and the environment from interactions between humans and the oceans, seas and coasts. *"Many perceptions in society of the relationships between the marine environment and human health are limited and still relatively unexplored, leaving critical knowledge gaps for those seeking to develop effective policies for the sustainable use of marine resources and environmental and human health protection"* (European Marine Board, 2013). SOPHIE will address this gap.

The Research Fellow will be involved in the delivery of research for Work Package 2 'Evidence' co-led by Dr Ruth Garside and involving Dr Mat White. This Work Package will be responsible for helping to map and synthesise what has been researched about the connections between coastal zones, seas, oceans and human health and wellbeing in Europe and identifying the open data sources which could lead to the creation of an Oceans and Human Health Global Burden of Disease and Wellbeing activity in the future. The Research Fellow will also contribute to other Work Packages of the SOPHIE EU Partners.

Main duties and accountabilities:

1. To undertake research as appropriate to the field of study including:
 - Acting as lead researcher for the evidence mapping research projects;
 - 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.
 - Conducting these collaborative research projects;
 - Assessing, interpreting and evaluating outcomes of research;
 - 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;
 - 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;
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 contribute to teaching and learning programmes in the School and to supervise postgraduate research students.
- 6. Support Dr Ruth Garside in the Administration of WP2 in the SOPHIE Project, particularly research administration and coordination with the other Partners.

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.	Be a nationally recognized authority in their subject area.
Skills and Understanding	<p>Strong systematic review and evidence synthesis skills.</p> <p>Record of research output in nationally recognised publications.</p> <p>Evidence of research activity and published research as well as presentation and interactions at scientific conferences and other venues.</p>	<p>Understanding of the issues around interconnections between oceans and human health</p> <p>Experience of using systematic mapping techniques</p> <p>Experience of qualitative research methods</p>
Prior Experience	<p>Strong project management experience, including working with multiple sites, partners and research strands.</p> <p>Experience of managing research budgets.</p> <p>Experience in applying for grant funding.</p>	<p>Experience of working on international collaborative research projects.</p> <p>Experience of postgraduate teaching and supervision.</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>	<p>Experience working with other cultures.</p>
Circumstances	There will be independent local and European travel as part of the research in which the candidate will be expected to participate.	

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.