

Research Role Profile

Job Title:	Research Assistant – Environmental Social Science in interdisciplinary working
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Responsible to:	Prof Birgitta Gatersleben
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Responsible for:	There is no direct supervisory responsibility
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Job Summary and Purpose:
To support research activity in accordance with specified research project(s) under the supervision of the principal investigator

Main Responsibilities/Activities
<p>To support a research team by contributing to the planning of research projects and undertaking prescribed research tasks in accordance with specified research project(s), making use of standard research techniques and methods. These may include fieldwork, interviews, laboratory experimentation, computer-based data analysis or library research as directed by the research award holder and will entail co-ordinating own work with that of others to avoid conflict or duplication of effort. Analysing and interpreting results of own research, under the guidance of research award holder or supervisor. Write up results and contribute to the preparation of papers for submission to appropriate journals and conferences, and other outputs as required and/or appropriate. Attend appropriate conferences for the purpose of disseminating research results of personal development.</p> <p>Continually update knowledge and develop skills</p> <p>To carry out routine administrative tasks associated with a specified research project, for example risk assessment of research tasks, organisation of project meetings and documentation. This will entail planning own day-to-day research activity within the framework of the agreed programme, dealing with problems that may affect the achievement of research objectives and deadlines and implementing procedures required to ensure accurate and timely formal reporting and financial control</p> <p>Demonstrating, or occasionally assisting with undergraduate supervision within the post holder's area of expertise and under the direct guidance of a member of the Faculty academic staff.</p>

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Person Specification

The post holder must have:

A first degree or a professional qualification or equivalent in a relevant subject.

At least part-completed a relevant Masters or doctoral degree or have relevant experience in a given field.

Whilst there is no requirement for previous work experience, the post holder will be expected to be able to support research activities by performing research activities, and organising engagement and impact activities.

Relationships and Contacts

Direct responsibility to the principal investigator or academic supervisor.

Special Requirements

To be available to participate in fieldwork as required by the specified research project.

All staff are expected to:

- Positively support equality of opportunity and equity of treatment to colleagues and students in accordance with the University of Surrey Equal Opportunities policy.
- Help maintain a safe working environment by:
 - Attending training in Health and Safety requirements as necessary, both on appointment and as changes in duties and techniques demand
 - Following local codes of safe working practices and the University of Surrey Health and Safety Policy
- Undertake such other duties within the scope of the post as may be requested by your Manager.

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Addendum

This document provides additional information relating to both specific aspects of the post/faculty and any post specific person specification criteria. The information contained within this document should always be read in conjunction with the accompanying generic Job Purpose.

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Background Information/Relationships

This project is part of the ACCESS ([ACCESS | Home What is ACCESS about](#)) project which aims to champion the value and impact of Environmental Social Science in interdisciplinary research and practice.

This particular project is a collaborative project between ACCESS and the Institute of Environmental Sciences (IES). IES is a professional body and charitable organisation supporting professional scientists and academics. It has a large network of members (>6,000) working across specialisms within the environmental sciences in consultancy, industry, academia and local and national government.

The project aims to strengthen interdisciplinary working between environmental and social sciences by co-producing a set of practical resources and building a lasting network of practitioners and researchers. It will be delivered jointly by ACCESS and the Institution of Environmental Sciences (IES), drawing on their complementary missions and extensive networks.

The project will build on existing resources developed within the ACCESS project to help champion the value of ESS in interdisciplinary research, policy and practice. This project will expand on this work by focusing on interdisciplinary working that includes environmental social science and environmental sciences.

Whilst there is a shared recognition of the value of interdisciplinary working across environmental and social scientists, practical barriers often limit effective collaboration. These include differences in disciplinary languages, limited mutual understanding of methods and approaches, lack of guidance and appropriate frameworks to support collaboration, and the absence of shared spaces or networks. Environmental scientists may be unfamiliar with how ESS can inform and enhance their work, while environmental social scientists are often underrepresented in professional science bodies such as IES. This project aims to address these gaps by developing a: A practical Framework for Collaborative Working and B. A toolkit to support interdisciplinary working. This will be done through analyses of existing data, collection of some further data, redesign of existing resources and organization of a series of co-design workshops.

The successful candidate will support the project through the following activities:

1. Collect and analyse examines of successful and unsuccessful interdisciplinary collaboration from both environmental scientists and environmental social scientists (note that some data is already available).

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2. Develop tailored resources to support practical approaches to bridging disciplines.
3. Help organize, facilitate and analyse workshops with members of ACCESS and IES.

The post is located in the Environmental Psychology Research Group at the University of Surrey, led by Prof Birgitta Gatersleben and part of the ACCESS research program led by the Universities of Exeter and Surrey.

The postholder will be jointly supervised by Prof Birgitta Gatersleben (Surrey & ACCESS) and Dr Ethny Childs (IES).

Person Specification

This section describes the sum total of knowledge, experience & competence required by the post holder that is necessary for standard acceptable performance in carrying out this role. This is in addition to the criteria contained within the accompanying generic Job Purpose.

A research degree (MSc) in a relevant subject and/or experience	Essential
Social science research knowledge – qualitative and quantitative	Essential
Good communication skills with academic and non-academic audiences	Essential
Knowledge, interest in environmental social science research	Essential
Good organizational skills	Essential
Excellent written and verbal communication skills with an ability to write project deliverables and give presentations on the completed work	Essential

Key Responsibilities

This document is not designed to be a list of all tasks undertaken but an outline record of any faculty/post specific responsibilities. This should be read in conjunction with those contained within the accompanying generic Job Purpose.

1. Analyse survey data and case study examples.
2. Develop an analyse workshop material.
3. Draft tailor-made resources based on workshops, survey and case study analyses.
4. Draft reports.
5. Attend face to face and online meetings with the IES and ACCESS team.
6. N.B. The above list is not exhaustive.