



Job Description

Job title	Research Associate
Department/School	Social and Policy Sciences
Job family	Education and Research
Grade	7
Reporting to	Principal Investigator (PI) or Co-Investigator (CI)
Responsible for	There may be a requirement for: day to day supervision of other staff e.g. technical staff or, co-supervision of doctoral or undergraduate students
Location	University of Bath premises

Background and context

This postdoctoral research associate will join Dr Yixian Sun's new research project titled "Understanding policy changes and applying anticipatory design to improve governance for sustainable forest-risk commodities" (AnDforFRCs) funded by the the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's Forest Governance, Market and Climate Programme (FGMC). Led by Dr Yixian Sun at the University of Bath, the project is implemented by an international research consortium consisting of leading universities in Indonesia, China, Canada, Germany and Singapore to conduct research in Asia, Africa and Europe.

The post holder will be based in the Department of Social and Policy Science and join the community of the Centre for Earth System Research Governance in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. The successful applicant will work closely with the project's PI and Chinese partners and other related international collaborators to conduct research on public and private governance of forest-risk commodities (e.g., natural rubber, palm oil and minerals) in China and engage with a range of stakeholders to promote policy changes. The ultimate goal of our work is to generate evidence-based research to support key Chinese stakeholder to promote sustainable trade of forest-risk commodities.

Job purpose	
To provide subject-specific research expertise and undertake specific research work to a Principal Investigator (PI)/Co-Investigator (CI) and their research team for a specified grant/project.	

Main duties and responsibilities	
	Responsible to the PI/CI for (as appropriate to discipline):
1	Conduct individual and/or collaborative research projects. Contribute to the design and execution of the project e.g. timetabling and meeting project milestones; participating in regular discussions with collaborative partners. Generate, collect and analyse existing data related to the project using qualitative and/or quantitative techniques.
2	Write-up results of research and contribute to the publication of results in high-quality peer-reviewed academic literature.
3	Disseminate results of research project as appropriate to the discipline through activities such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • overseas research visits • conference presentations • public engagement activities
4	Participate in departmental/group meetings and prepare and deliver presentations/seminars to project team, internal and external stakeholders or funders.
5	Assist with the supervision of postgraduate students and undergraduate project students and the assessment of student knowledge.
6	Continually update knowledge and understanding in field or specialism to inform research activity.
7	Identify sources of funding and provide assistance with preparing bids to funding bodies. Develop ability to secure own funding e.g. travel grants.
8	Contribute to the development of research objectives and proposals for own or joint research projects, with assistance of a mentor, if required.
9	Disseminate knowledge of research advances to inform departmental teaching.
10	As a member of Research Staff at the University, you will be encouraged to take up a minimum of 10 days' professional development pro rata per year. You should use this time to spend on activities that will benefit your career development and your personal growth. Examples include: attending workshops, career development coaching, mentoring, training courses, participation in networks, attending conferences, writing fellowship or funding

	<p>applications, and representing the research staff community on committees or working groups.</p> <p>The University, as a signatory to the Concordat for the Career Development of Researchers, is committed to its principles. We aim to provide a supportive and inclusive environment, where researchers' contributions are recognised and valued, and we provide opportunities to enable research staff to develop their full potential.</p>
	<p>You will from time to time be required to undertake other duties of a similar nature as reasonably required by your line manager. You are required to follow all University policies and procedures at all times and take account of University guidance.</p>



Person Specification

Criteria	Essential	Desirable
Qualifications		
Undergraduate degree (e.g. BA, BSc, BEng)	√	
PhD degree* in subject area of direct relevance for the project; or	√	
Professional/Industrial/Creative Doctorate in subject area of direct relevance for the project (e.g. DBA, MD, EdD, PsyD, EngD, DA); or		
Professional qualification (e.g. Chartership) and relevant experience equivalent to that of a PhD; or		
Professional experience in relevant discipline equivalent to that of a PhD		
Experience/Knowledge		
Post doctoral experience		√
Demonstrated significant depth and breadth of specialist knowledge of subject matter to contribute to research programmes and to the development of departmental research activities	√	
Demonstrated awareness of latest developments in the field of research and in research design	√	

Demonstrated potential to publish in high quality, peer reviewed journals	√	
Skills		
Ability to prepare research proposals, to conduct individual research work and to disseminate results		√
Ability to organise and prioritise own workload to meet required deadlines	√	
Ability to write research reports and to effectively disseminate outcomes	√	
Excellent oral, interpersonal and written communication skills	√	
Proficiency in appropriate techniques (as appropriate to discipline)	√	
Proficiency in IT skills (as appropriate to discipline)	√	
Attributes		
Commitment to working within professional and ethical codes of conduct	√	
Innovation and developing creative solutions	√	
Commitment to excellence in research	√	
Enthusiasm and self-motivation	√	
Tenacity – working to achieve own and team objectives and to overcome obstacles	√	
Ability to be an effective team worker	√	
Commitment to safe working practices	√	

*If you have not yet been awarded your PhD, you will need to have at least submitted your thesis in order to be offered this role (if successful). This offer would be subject to you passing your viva with or without minor corrections and your PhD being awarded within your six-month probation period. Please note that an offer may be withdrawn, or probation failed, if a PhD viva is not passed or passed with major corrections. The University's normal [probationary requirements](#) apply in all other respects.