



Job Description

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Job title | Research Assistant |
| Department/School | Psychology |
| Job family | Education and Research |
| Grade | 6 |
| Reporting to | Principal Investigator (PI) or Co-Investigator (CI) for area of research |
| Responsible for | No staff management responsibilities |
| Location | University of Bath premises |

Background and context

An exciting opportunity has arisen to join the UK Centre for Climate Change and Social Transformations (CAST). CAST is a global hub for understanding the crucial role that people play in fighting climate change. We are a cross-institutional research centre with world-leading expertise in environmental psychology, behaviour change, public engagement, policy, governance, education, and more. Our Centre is a vibrant community, committed to doing impactful research and to promoting an inclusive and positive working environment (see our EDI plan).

We are seeking a researcher to contribute to a major new research programme funded by a philanthropic organisation, on People-Centred Climate Resilience (PCR). The four-year programme aims to accelerate transformative, equitable, climate-resilient, low-carbon behaviour change by integrating individual and systemic approaches, developing and testing innovative composite interventions, and empowering diverse communities and stakeholders to drive sustained societal transformation across scales and sectors.

Your role will principally involve conducting a longitudinal cross-national survey on life choices, including survey design, data collection and analysis, and disseminating findings to create impact. This project will explore the little-examined area of how climate change influences individuals' life choices, such as where to live, what career to follow, and whether and when to have children. You will undertake a large cross-national longitudinal survey of 15+ countries (with varying climate risks and vulnerabilities, different climate policy approaches, etc.) to explore the relative salience of climate change versus other factors (e.g. income, family ties, cultural norms) in these major life choices. The survey (N=1000 per country) will focus on the role of climate impacts (experienced and perceived), but also mitigation and adaptation policies as potential drivers for choices, and how structural, social and spatial inequalities may hinder engagement with climate action. Two waves of data collection will be conducted 18-months apart, allowing

us to track how/when intentions translate into action; and how changing contextual factors shape decisions.

This part-time (0.6 FTE) post is available for a fixed-term period of 42 months from 1st October 2026.

Job purpose

To provide subject-specific research assistance to a Principal Investigator (PI)/Co-Investigator (CI) and their research team for a specified grant.

Main duties and responsibilities

| | |
|---|--|
| 1 | Assist with research by typically (<i>as appropriate to discipline</i>): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• preparing, conducting and recording the outcome of field work;• developing questionnaires and conducting surveys• conducting literature and database searches |
| 2 | Provide support to PI and other research staff with project management (for example, organising meetings and corresponding with partners). |
| 3 | Contribute to the production of research reports and publications. |
| 4 | Participate regularly in group meetings and prepare and deliver presentations to research team. |
| 5 | Assist with supervising undergraduate student projects. |
| 6 | Continually update knowledge and understanding in field or specialism to inform research activity. |
| 7 | <p>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 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) in a subject relevant to the research activity | √ | |
| Master level qualification | | √ |
| Experience/Knowledge | | |
| Relevant work experience in a related area to the project | | √ |
| Demonstrated depth and breadth of specialist knowledge of subject matter to effectively contribute to the research programme | √ | |
| Demonstrated awareness of latest developments in the field of research | √ | |
| Skills | | |
| Ability to organise and prioritise own workload to meet required deadlines | √ | |
| Ability to write research reports and to effectively disseminate outcomes | √ | |
| Excellent verbal, interpersonal and written communication skills | √ | |
| Highly competent in IT packages as appropriate to discipline/area of research | √ | |
| Attributes | | |
| Commitment to working within professional and ethical codes of conduct | √ | |
| Innovation and developing creative solutions | √ | |
| Self-confidence when communicating with a wide range of stakeholders | √ | |
| Commitment to safe working practices | √ | |
| Ability to work independently | √ | |
| Commitment to excellence in research | √ | |
| Ability to be an effective team worker | √ | |