

# JOB DESCRIPTION

**Job Title:** Research Fellow (18-month contract)

**Service:** Sustainability Research Institute (SRI)

## Grade: F (0.8 FTE)

**Campus:** Docklands

**Responsible to:** Associate Professor in Sustainability

**Responsible for whom:** N/A

**Liaison with:** SRI Green Infrastructure Team, SRI clients and partners, and UEL Services

**Never Not Moving Forward**

Build your career, follow your passion, be inspired by our environment of success. #BeTheChange

The University of East London is one of the most diverse and vibrant universities in the global capital. Our pioneering and forward-thinking vision is making a positive and significant impact to the communities we serve, inspiring both our staff and students to reach their full potential.

Born in 1898 to serve the skills needs of the 2nd industrial revolution, the University of East London is underway with its transformational 10-year Vision 2028 strategic plan led by our Vice-Chancellor & President, Professor Amanda Broderick, to advance Industry 4.0 careers-1st education. We have a clear route-map to provide a springboard for the jobs and opportunities of the future; drive diversity in the 4.0 talent pipeline - working in partnership to promote talent wherever it is found; and to create an inclusive and sustainable, green future.

We are looking for forward-thinking, innovative, curious, high-energy, self-aware people who are passionate about making a positive difference and who will thrive in an inclusive and diverse University community who are always moving forwards.

As one of the most socially inclusive and international universities in the UK and comprising one of the most diverse UK staff populations (50% of our professoriate identify from black or minority ethnic backgrounds), we are hugely proud of our track record in reducing inequalities (ranked 1st in the UK & 2nd globally, Times Higher Education Global Impact Rankings, 2020) and our commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion is at the heart of Vision 2028.

We are building an environment of success where colleagues are supported to achieve significant real-world impact, helping our communities, both local and global, to flourish and thrive. We are an accredited ‘Investors in People Award’ Institution and have achieved the Investors in People Health and Wellbeing Award. With Athena Swan Awards and as one of a small number of universities to have achieved the Race Equality Charter Award, we continue on our journey to address and reduce barriers to opportunity.

So, if you are looking to build your career in a dynamic, inclusive, and performance-focused team and are inspired by our environment and drive for success, we want you to apply to join the University of East London. We are looking for inspirational individuals who have a passion to make a positive difference to people and planet, creating a more sustainable future for everyone.

## THE DEPARTMENT:

Established in 2001, the Sustainability Research Institute was one of the first dedicated sustainability research institutes in the UK. We have since built an excellent international reputation by applying our ground-breaking research and development across the globe.

Our work focuses on a range of emerging research fields and current urban and rural sustainability challenges. To address these, our focus is centred on three key themes:

* **Green infrastructure & nature-based solutions**: including expertise in the ecology and conservation of carbon-rich peatlands, the design and monitoring of urban green infrastructure, and invertebrate conservation.
* **Resource Management**: encompassing materials engineering, energy efficiency, life cycle analysis, and the circular economy.
* **Sustainable Society**: covering community engagement, asset management, and environmental psychology.

The SRI reflects UEL's tradition of cross-disciplinary knowledge transfer. Working with partners across the UK and around the world, our work addresses the critical issues for creating more resilient urban and rural communities. Our recent success in securing substantial research and knowledge exchange funding, including FP7, Horizon 2020 and ERDF funding, has provided a strong foundation for further development and collaboration with external stakeholders.

## JOB PURPOSE:

The SRI is seeking to recruit a Research Fellow for an eighteen-month contract to support the Green Infrastructure Team in delivering the UKRI-funded research project [BIURBS](https://www.biurbs.org/). The candidate will support the SRI’s team of researchers and programme managers working on the BIURBS project to deliver a variety of high-quality research outputs building from a process of peer-reviewed and grey literature systematic review, and stakeholder engagement workshops. Working in partnership with University of Manchester, University of the West of England, and the architectural practice Stolon Studios, you will contribute to unlocking new understanding of the ‘value’ of biodiversity in urban developments, and how different biodiversity planning tools deliver for biodiversity conservation in urban areas.

## MAIN DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

* Collaborate with the SRI Green Infrastructure Team to support research project delivery for the BIURBS project.
* Review and synthesis of existing literature related to urban biodiversity delivery in developments and emerging nature-based solutions approaches.
* Developing and delivering stakeholder workshops to explore user experience of urban biodiversity planning tools.
* Supporting the dissemination of research outcomes and guidance to support practitioners in delivering biodiversity outcomes through urban development projects and developing the next generation of biodiversity planning tools.

# PERSON SPECIFICATION

## EDUCATION, QUALIFICATIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS:

**Essential criteria;**

* Educated to PhD level or equivalent (qualified by experience) in a discipline related to the BIURBS project key research themes: Urban Green infrastructure, Nature-based solutions, Conservation Ecology, Landscape Architecture, Environmental Economics or Urban Planning (C)

**Desirable criteria;**

* Additional work-based learning or professional qualification in a related field (e.g., Ecological Consultancy) (C)

## KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE:

**Essential criteria;**

* A broad knowledge of urban ecology and/or environmental economics (A/I)
* Excellent oral and written communication skills (A/I/)
* Excellent organised and methodical approach to work (A/I)

**Desirable criteria;**

* Experience of working in academia, or with academics (I)
* Experience of working outside academia with non-academic partners (I)
* Experience of running stakeholder workshops (I)
* Knowledge/experience of working with existing biodiversity evaluation tools/metrics for planning and development (I)

**SKILLS AND ABILITIES:**

**Essential criteria;**

* Track record of success in report writing (A/I)
* Well-developed interpersonal skills (A/I)
* Ability to manage time effectively, multitask, and prioritise work (A/I)
* Attention to detail and ability to rectify problems with minimum time delay (A/I)
* Project management skills (A/I)

**Desirable Criteria;**

* Experience of writing manuscripts for peer-review journals (I)

## PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES AND QUALITIES:

* Ability to work with minimum supervision and to use own initiative while also being able to work well as part of an integrated team (I)
* Excellent organisational and planning skills including attention to detail and multi-tasking skills (I)
* Excellent communication skills in dealing with a range of individuals and the ability to explain and present clear and authoritative advice to a wide range of individuals and bodies (I)
* Excellent interpersonal skills and proven ability in developing and maintaining strong relationships with internal and external stakeholders (I)
* Excellent time management skills and ability to work independently as well as part of a multidisciplinary team (I)
* Ability to act with tact and discretion and maintain confidentiality (I)
* Positive approach, well-motivated, reliable, adaptable, and trustworthy (I)

**OTHER ESSENTIAL CRITIERIA;**

* Strong desire to contribute to UEL’s vision 2028 (I)
* Strong desire to contribute to global sustainability and nature conservation (I)
* Able to demonstrate an understanding of, and commitment to, equality and diversity, and its practical application (I)

## Criteria tested by Key:

A = Application form C = Certification

I = Interview