

**JOB DESCRIPTION**

**Job Title:**  Socio-Economist Professor/Associate Professor: Sustainability Research Institute (SRI)

**Grade:** I

**Campus:** Docklands

**Responsible to:** Co-Director of SRI

**Liaison with:**  Sustainable Society research team

**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 never not moving forwards.

As one of the most socially inclusive and international universities and comprising one of the most diverse staff populations in the UK (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, and our community can 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 being 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.

**SUSTAINABILITY RESEARCH INSTITUTE:**

Since its launch in 2001 UEL’s Sustainability Research Institute (SRI) has brought together research and development of innovative eco-efficient technologies and processes, focusing on changes in the physical infrastructure that benefit the environment and promote a carbon-neutral society. Over the last ten years, the SRI has successfully delivered a wide range of publicly funded research projects, undertaken a number of consultancy contracts and contract research initiatives and built an excellent international reputation by applying ground-breaking research and development in the real world.

SRI’s work focuses on a range of emerging research fields and pressing urban and rural sustainability challenges and is centred on three key themes:

* *Green infrastructure*: spanning areas such peatland ecology and conservation, the design and monitoring of urban green infrastructure and invertebrate conservation
* *Resource Management*: encompassing materials engineering and circular economy
* *Sustainable Society*: covering adaptive governance, community engagement and asset management

**WHO WE ARE LOOKING FOR:**

We are looking for an Environmental socio-economist to join the SRI, taking a leadership role within the Sustainable Society team, developing, and supporting research activity, including providing support with a number of ongoing projects. This is an exciting opportunity for an experienced researcher to join a multi-disciplinary team working on Sustainability projects across the UK, Europe and globally.

The successful candidate will understand the socio-economic issues increasingly associated with environmental solutions and strategies and will be able to communicate these in a clear way. As environmental initiatives are increasingly impacting on, and making use of, economic factors, the successful candidate will be experienced in socio-economic analysis (SEA) and have extensive knowledge of the socio-economic implications of their implementation, preferably within the environmental context. We are looking for someone who will thrive in a multi-disciplinary research environment focused on supporting external stakeholders solve real-world challenges and will be able to innovate using their socio-economic expertise.

**MAIN DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

* Conduct qualitative and quantitative research on a number of on-going projects (including being in charge of work-packages)
* Conduct socio-economic analysis (SEA) within our projects
* Design innovative research based on excellent reviews of existing literature
* Write reports on findings and communicate them with experts from other fields
* Liaise with partners and colleagues to achieve high quality results
* Initiate and contribute to new funding applications with socio-economic expertise
* Take a lead role in the SRI Sustainable Society team to enhance the presence of the Social Sciences in our projects
* Contribute to SRI community, research, knowledge exchange, teaching, and income generation
* Mentor early-career academics and research students with a particular focus on the Sustainable Society team
* Support the SRI and UEL in the delivery of REF, KEF and TEF targets.

**PERSON SPECIFICATION**

**EDUCATION AND QUALIFICATIONS:**

**Essential criteria:**

* PhD or equivalent qualification in a social science discipline (economics, sociology, or a related field) (A/C)
* Strong knowledge of sustainability, biodiversity and/or environmental fields (I)

**Desirable criteria:**

* Professional qualifications related to socio-economy and/or sustainability (C)
* Membership of professional organisations (I)

**KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE:**

**Essential criteria:**

* Experience conducting socio-economic analysis (A/I)
* Experience designing and undertaking qualitative and quantitative research (A/I)
* Experience working in sustainability, biodiversity and/or environmental fields (A/I)
* Experience of research and/or knowledge exchange project leadership (A/I)
* Experience supervising research students (I)

**Desirable criteria:**

* Comprehensive understanding of the national TEF, KEF and REF landscape (I)
* Evidence of high-quality REF outputs and impact case studies (I)
* Experience working on international projects (I)
* Experience of working with non-academic stakeholders (I)

**SKILLS AND ABILITIES:**

**Essential criteria:**

* Excellent research skills including qualitative and quantitative methods and data analysis, appropriate analysis software, sampling methods, survey research and statistical analysis (data analysis software SPSS, NVivo, etc) (A/I)
* Excellent IT skills (MS office, etc) (I)
* Excellent interpersonal, networking, and communication skills (I)
* Research grant writing experience (A/I)

**Desirable criteria:**

* Track record of research grant capture (A/I)
* Teaching experience including PhD supervision (I)
* Experience of statistical analysis programming (e.g., R programming) (I)

**PERSONAL ATTRIBURES AND QUALITIES:**

**Essential criteria:**

* Commitment to and understanding of equal opportunities issues within a diverse and multicultural environment (I)
* Ability to work on multiple projects at a time (I)
* Ability to work independently and as part of small and large teams (I)
* Commitment to the highest ethical and professional standards in research (I)
* Commitment to the promotion and advancement of the university (I)

**Criteria tested by Key:**

A = Application form

C = Certification

I = Interview