

**JOB DESCRIPTION**

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| **Job Title** | Principal Research Fellow |
| **Service** | Sustainability Research Institute (SRI) |
| **Grade** | H |
| **Location** | Docklands |
| **Reporting to** | Director of SRI |
| **Liaison with** | Green Infrastructure/Sustainable Society research teams |
| **Contract type** | Permanent,  Part-time (24 hours per week) |

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

**THE UNIVERSITY OF EAST LONDON**

If you are seeking a career that combines innovative education with a passion for crafting positive change, look no further than the University of East London. Founded in 1898 to meet the skills needs of the 2nd industrial revolution, we’re now in Year 5 of our ground-breaking 10-year Vision 2028 strategic plan, orchestrated by our Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor Amanda Broderick.

Our goal is to advance industry 5.0 careers-first education and provide a clear path to the jobs and opportunities of the future. We are committed to driving diversity in the 5.0 talent pipeline, working in partnership to promote talent wherever it is found and creating a sustainable, inclusive, and green future.

But we can't achieve this goal alone. We need forward-thinking, innovative, and curious individuals like you to join our community and help us shape the future. As part of our team, you'll have the opportunity to work with a diverse range of people who share your passion for generating positive change. We’re an inclusive and welcoming community that is constantly moving forward, never satisfied with the status quo.

If you're ready to join a team that values your outstanding skills and perspectives and is dedicated to making a difference, we invite you to explore a career with us. We are excited to welcome versatile individuals who are committed to advancing their careers while making a positive impact on the world.

**THE DEPARTMENT: 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.
* *Sustainable materials and resources*: encompassing materials engineering and circular economy.
* *Sustainable Society*: covering adaptive governance, community engagement, climate change adaptation behaviour, and net-zero transition.

**WHO WE ARE LOOKING FOR:**

We are looking for an established researcher with an interest in peatland ecology, land use change and/or environmental socioeconomics to join the SRI. The successful candidate would take a leadership and mentoring role within the Green Infrastructure/Sustainable Society team, developing, and supporting research activity, including leading, and providing support across several ongoing projects. This is an exciting opportunity for an experienced researcher to join a multi-disciplinary team working on transformational sustainability projects across the UK, Europe and globally.

The successful candidate will understand the broad range of ecological and socio-economic issues increasingly associated with nature-based solution approaches to land use change, with a specific focus on peatland and/or agricultural landscapes. They should be able to identify problems, and propose solutions and strategies, and will be able to communicate these in a clear way to a range of audiences. As environmental initiatives are increasingly impacting on, and making use of, economic factors, the successful candidate will be experienced in assessing land use change and/or using socio-economic analysis (SEA) and recognise the implications of their implementation within the environmental context. We are looking for someone who will thrive in a multi-disciplinary collaborative research environment focused on supporting external stakeholders solve real-world challenges and will be able to innovate using their ecological and/or socio-economic expertise.

**KEY DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

**The following duties and responsibilities are intended to give a broad indication of the variety of tasks that a Principal Research Fellow in the University may be asked to undertake. It should be noted that a job description is not an exhaustive list of activities, and employees may be asked to carry out other duties commensurate with the grade of the post. The job description may also be amended to take account of changed circumstances, and employees will be consulted when this is necessary.**

* Conduct qualitative and quantitative research on several on-going projects (including taking a leadership role on work-packages)
* Conduct appropriate scientific analysis within our projects.
* Design innovative research based on excellent reviews of existing literature.
* Write reports on findings and communicate them with experts and stakeholders from other fields.
* Liaise, lead and develop collaborations with partners, colleagues and external stakeholders to achieve high quality results.
* Initiate and contribute to new funding applications.
* Take a lead role in the SRI’s Green Infrastructure/Sustainable Society teams to enhance the presence of these areas in our projects.
* Contribute to the SRI community, research, knowledge exchange, teaching, and income generation.
* Line manages and mentor early-career academics and research students with a particular focus on the Green Infrastructure and Sustainable Society research themes.
* Support the SRI and UEL in the delivery of REF, KEF and TEF targets.

**PERSON SPECIFICATION**

**KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND EXPERIENCE**

Essential criteria:

* Experience conducting socio-economic and/or ecological 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 of managing early/mid-career researchers (A/I)
* Track record of successful PhD supervision (A/I)
* Track record in research income generation and project delivery (A/I)
* Track record in research output generation (A/I)

Desirable criteria:

* Comprehensive understanding of the national TEF, KEF and REF landscape (I)
* Evidence of high-quality impact from research outputs (I)
* An understanding of peatland ecology, peat soil carbon dynamics, or conservation (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:

* Teaching experience including PhD supervision (I)
* Experience of statistical analysis programming and spatial analysis (e.g., R programming, ArcGIS) (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)
* Good team player with willingness to mentor colleagues whilst also continuing own professional development (I)
* Commitment to the highest ethical and professional standards in research (I)
* Commitment to the promotion and advancement of the university (I)

**EDUCATION, QUALIFICATIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS**

Essential criteria:

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

Desirable criteria:

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

Criteria tested by Key:

A = Application form

C = Certification

I = Interview

UEL is an inclusive equal opportunities employer and are proud of our Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity achievements. We expect all employees of UEL to accept our EDI policy and will not tolerate discrimination in any form. As an employee of UEL, we expect you to follow all relevant Health & Safety policies.

We're a disability confident employer and value all applications. Please let us know if you require any reasonable accommodations throughout the recruitment process.

So, if you’d like to take your career to the next level with us here at the University of East London and are passionate about our environment and commit to success, we want you to apply today!