

**JOB DESCRIPTION**

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| **Job Title** | **Research Assistant: Nature-based Solutions** |
| **Service** | **Sustainability Research Institute (SRI)** |
| **Grade**  | **E** |
| **Location**  | **Docklands (Hybrid possible)** |
| **Reporting to** | **Director, SRI** |
| **Key working relationships** | **Nature-based solution researchers in the SRI and the Network Nature NBS Task Force 2.** |
| **Contract type/ Hours**  | **Fixed term for just under 5 months and 3 weeks****Part time 0.5fte** |

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](https://www.uel.ac.uk/about/vision-2028), 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.

**BRIEF OVERVIEW OF 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 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 local and international reputation by applying ground-breaking research and knowledge exchange in the real world.

The 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:

* Blue/Green infrastructure: exploring how we conserve, restore, and manage our nature-based infrastructure assets to enhance the sustainability and resilience of our rural and urban environments.
* Sustainable Materials and Resources: developing a new generation of materials with lower carbon emissions and improved performance.
* Sustainable Society: collaborating with stakeholders, such as local communities and businesses, to empower them to engage in the sustainability transition.

**JOB PURPOSE**

We are looking for a Research Assistant to provide key support to the Network Nature Task Force 2 work on Nature-Based Solutions. The RA will specifically work on a project exploring the use of impact evaluation on Horizon Europe funded Nature-based Solutions projects. As part of a Task Force project team, the role will include:

* Developing and distributing a survey to EU projects on their use of evaluation indicators
* Data collection
* Analysing responses, including individual follow-ups
* Hosting a team workshop to get consensus on findings and key outputs
* Crafting and disseminating a policy brief
* Finalising and submitting an open-access publication
* Evidencing that the project team have effectively collaborated with members of other Task Forces

This is an exciting opportunity for an early-career researcher to join a multi-disciplinary team with prime responsibility for delivering a research project linked to EU-wide knowledge transfer using an established pathway to impact. You will be reporting to the SRI Director and will be working alongside SRI researchers and other researchers involved in the Network Nature Task Force to engage Nature-based Solutions researchers and practitioners across the EU. This role represents an excellent opportunity to develop new networks and comprehensive experience of a diversity of research skills.

The successful candidate will demonstrate an ability to undertake review, survey and interview-based research. This will include experience of conducting data analysis on qualitative and/or qualitative data.

**KEY DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

* Develop and submit ethical approval application for the research project
* Run a workshop to co-develop the research approach
* Deliver a survey
* Analysing responses
* Host a workshop to get consensus on findings and key outputs
* Develop a policy brief
* Lead the preparation of a publication
* Present progress back in Task Force meetings
* Interaction and communication with SRI and external partners

The duties and responsibilities outlined above provide a general overview of the range of tasks that a **Research Assistant** at the University of East London may be required to perform. Please note that this job description is not exhaustive, and additional tasks aligned with the role's grade may be assigned as needed.

The job description may also be updated to reflect changes in circumstances, and employees will be consulted if any amendments are required.

**All employees must adhere to all UEL policies and regulations, demonstrating a commitment to equal opportunities within a diverse and multicultural environment. Employees are also expected to actively contribute to building and maintaining a positive reputation for UEL in all their professional activities.**

**PERSON SPECIFICATION**

The University's Core [Values](https://www.uel.ac.uk/about/governance/ethical-framework) are **Passion, Inclusion, Courage**, and they are at the root of everything we do and everyone in our community is expected to demonstrate them.

The table below outlines the essential and desirable criteria required to perform the role effectively. Candidates will be shortlisted based on how closely they meet these criteria.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Education and Qualifications | Essential  | Desirable | Criteria assessed by |
| MSc degree in an area of Sustainability related to Nature-based Solutions, Environmental Science or Social Science  | **[x]**  | **[ ]**  | (A/C/I) |
| PhD in an area of Sustainability related to Nature-based Solutions, Environmental Science or Social Science (A/C/I) | **[ ]**  | **[x]**  | (A/C/I) |
| Experience/Knowledge |  |  |  |
| Knowledge of qualitative and quantitative data analysis  | **[x]**  | **[ ]**  | (A/I) |
| Experience of designing surveys | **[x]**  | **[ ]**  | (A/I) |
| Understanding of nature-based solutions  | **[x]**  | **[ ]**  | (A/I) |
| Understanding of impact evaluation  | **[ ]**  | **[x]**  | (A/I) |
| Experience of developing ethics applications for research projects  | **[ ]**  | **[x]**  | (A/I) |
| Experience of preparing policy briefs  | **[ ]**  | **[x]**  | (A/I) |
| Skills/Abilities |  |  |  |
| Commitment to, and understanding of, equal opportunities issues within a diverse and multicultural environment  | **[x]**  | **[ ]**  | (A/I) |
| Excellent inter-personal skills with the ability to work with a wide range of people at different levels of seniority and from diverse backgrounds. | **[x]**  | **[ ]**  | (A/I) |
| Good team player with a positive attitude and willingness to learn and develop. | **[x]**  | **[ ]**  | (A/I) |
| Great communication skills, both written and oral. Must have good English communication skills. | **[x]**  | **[ ]**  | (A/I) |
| Ability to motivate yourself, manage tasks/meet deadlines, work both independently and as part of a team. | **[x]**  | **[ ]**  | (A/I) |
| Highly organised with an ability to organise own time and prioritise tasks. | **[x]**  | **[ ]**  | (A/I) |

Criteria assessed by Key:

A = Application form/CV C = Certification I = Interview

**Further Information:**

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.

**Last Updated: 10/09/2025**