

**Job Description**

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| Job Title: | Postdoctoral Researcher in Water Data For People |
| Faculty/Professional Directorate: | Research & Enterprise |
| Subject Group/Team: | Energy & Environment Institute |
| Reporting to: | Deputy Director of the Energy & Environment Institute |
| Duration: | Fixed-term 18 months (External funding) |
| Job Family: | Academic |
| Pay Band: | 7 |
| Benchmark Profile: | Research Band 7 |
| DBS Disclosure requirement: | N/A |
| Vacancy Reference: |  |

**Details Specific to the Post**

**Background and Context**

The University of Hull (UoH) is undertaking a range of projects related to climate change adaptation via transdisciplinary approaches that engage and inform stakeholders and communities, delivering related research and knowledge exchange. The Water Data for People project is funded by the Doncaster, Immingham and Grimsby (DIG) surface water resilience project which is part of the national DEFRA Flood and Coastal Resilience Innovation Programme which supports 25 local projects demonstrating how practical innovative actions can improve resilience to flooding and coastal erosion in a changing climate.

The DIG project aims to deliver benefits to people, businesses and the community by transforming simple streetscapes into blue-green corridors. Water Data for People (WDFP) is working with schools and local communities, including those involved in DIG, to raise understanding of flood risk, and engaging with people to enable them to take steps to make themselves and their properties more resilient. WDFP makes use of hyper-local hydrological data from weather stations and other monitoring devices to raise climate knowledge, awareness and action amongst young people and community members using creative and participatory approaches.

The current post will be based in the vibrant [Energy and Environment Institute](https://www.hull.ac.uk/work-with-us/research/institutes/energy-and-environment-institute.aspx), which was established at the University in late 2016. The Institute’s vision is to be an internationally leading centre for research at the interfaces between energy and environmental resilience; with a focus on global sustainability challenges and delivering research that makes a difference. The Institute has three primary goals: to research and discover; to innovate and deliver impact; and to act as a regional anchor and beacon for world leading research and knowledge exchange.

### Specific Duties and Responsibilities of the post

The postholder will work closely with our external partners at the DIG project and with schools and local communities to use hyper-local data to explore participatory approaches to inspire engagement in water issues, particularly flooding and climate action. The post holder will work with partners to make hyper-local water data accessible to share a better understanding of water resilience amongst community members. The post holder will develop creative and participatory methods for sharing hydrological and hydraulic data to drive climate knowledge, awareness and action and share the learnings with water management stakeholders, Lead Local Flood Authorities and others to develop best practice model for enhancing water and climate resilience in the UK and globally.

The post holder will be expected to use participatory approaches to work with people and communities and may be required to be involved in science related communication with various internal and external stakeholder audiences. The post holder will have knowledge and understanding of hydrological processes and/or water issues and will be required to analyse data sets to produce findings and reports for senior management.

The post holder will be responsible for growing an active research programme to develop and deliver public engagement activities with schools and communities. They will devise, organise and manage activities, engaging proactively with stakeholders, schools and communities to communicate project aims, monitor progress and report outcomes. The research will include evaluating the effectiveness and impact of the engagement activities and it is expected that the postholder will contribute significantly to dissemination and publication of the research findings through journal publications and presentations at academic conferences and workshops. The post holder will be required to present progress on a monthly basis and to write regular progress reports which can include detailing outcomes and recommendations to inform decision making. They may be required to travel to conduct fieldwork or to external organisations to attend meetings/ conferences/workshops relating to the project. Additional administrative duties may be required within the scope of this role. The Role Description is not intended to be an exhaustive list of duties and will be subject to periodic review in discussion with the post-holder.

The EEI is proud to foster a collaborative and inclusive team environment, promoting diversity and equality of opportunity, and the post holder will be expected to contribute to this ethos of working positively with all colleagues. The postholder will work with colleagues to deliver the Water Data For People Project, with guidance from senior EEI colleagues. The post offers excellent career development opportunities including developing a personal research portfolio, engaging with stakeholders and presenting at major academic conferences and stakeholder events.

**GENERIC JOB DESCRIPTION**

The job duties and responsibilities listed below are intended to describe the general nature of the role. The duties and responsibilities and the balance between the elements in the role may change or vary over time depending on the specific needs at a specific point in time or due to changing needs in the department. Candidates should note that there may not be an immediate requirement to carry out all the activities listed below.

### Overall Purpose of the Role

The researcher at this level will be:

* An experienced and professional researcher and will be a subject specialist, drawing upon knowledge gained from postgraduate research and/or working within a Research Band 6 role.
* Associated with a particular project (or projects) and will contribute ideas, and/or enhancement of techniques or methodologies and be expected to take significant initiatives in their work and consult with the Principal Investigator over the details of the project. They will work under supervision and receive academic, pastoral support and guidance which may include specific training, career opportunities and mentoring.

They may contribute to the Department’s teaching, through supervision of projects, overseeing practical classes, or taking small group tutorial classes.

The main focus of the work will involve conducting individual and collaborative research projects under the general guidance of a senior academic or Principal Investigator using new research techniques and methods, analysing and interpreting data and writing up research for publication.

**Main Work Activities**

1. Conduct individual and collaborative research projects to include:

* Using expertise to carry out projects they are working on.
* Contribute to the preparing proposals and applications for external bodies, e.g. for funding and contractual purposes with appropriate support or contribute to the writing of collective bids.
* Use new research techniques and methods.
* Analyse and interpret research data.
* Write up research work of the project and its dissemination through seminar and conferences presentations and publications.

1. Responsible for the management of projects to include:

* Plan and manage own research activity in collaboration with others.
* Manage administrative activities with guidance if required.
* Plan and monitor the work of the project or projects if applicable.

1. Assist with teaching and learning support in own area of study to include:

* Assist in the development of student research skills.
* Assess student knowledge and supervision of projects.
* Supervise and guide final year students.

1. Develop and initiate collaborative working internally and externally to include:

* Build internal contacts and participate in internal networks for exchange of information and to form relationships for future collaboration and to progress their research.
* Develop links and join external networks to share information and identify future potential sources of funding.
* Work with colleagues on joint projects as required.
* Attend and contribute to relevant meetings.

1. Demonstrate evidence of own personal and professional development to include:

* Continually update knowledge and understanding in field or specialism.
* Appraisal, induction and performance reviews.
* Participate in training and development activity.
* Maintain links with professional institutions and other related bodies.
* Collaborate with academic colleagues on areas of shared research interest.

### Additionally the post holder will be required to:

* Fulfil the employees’ duties described in the University’s health and safety policies and co-operate with the health and safety arrangements in place within the department. May be required to undertake specific health and safety roles on request e.g. Display screen equipment assessor, departmental safety officer, fire warden etc.
* Show a commitment to diversity, equal opportunities and anti-discriminatory practices this includes undertaking mandatory equality and diversity training.
* Comply with University regulations, policies and procedures.

**PERSON SPECIFICATION – Research Band 7**

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| **Specification** | **Essential** | **Desirable** | **Examples Measured by** |
| **Education and Training**  Formal qualifications and relevant training | * A PhD in a relevant discipline or significant experience in education and/or science communication in a research context | **Evidence of:**   * Experience of working with school children and/or communities | Application  Interview  Other |
| **Work Experience**  Ability to undertake duties of the post | **Evidence of:**   * An emerging track record in an relevant research field, including, for example, publications, presentations at conferences | **Evidence of:**   * Peer-reviewed publication of relevant research * Contributing to funding applications | Application  Interview  Other |
| **Skills and Knowledge**  Includes abilities and intellect | **Evidence of:**   * Participation in networks that seek to promote collaboration * Effective management of resources * Ability to lead research projects | **Evidence of:**   * Knowledge and understanding of hydrology * Engagement of external partners * Experience of using and sharing large data sets | Application  Interview  Other |
| **Personal Qualities**  Includes any specific physical requirements of the post – (subject to the provisions of the Equality Act 2010) | **Evidence of:**   * An expectation to positively contribute to University activities and initiatives which may include open days, graduation ceremonies, etc., and have a willingness to undertake administrative activities * Collaborative working, particularly on interdisciplinary activities * Working in an open and transparent way, providing information and communicating effectively with colleagues | **Evidence of:**   * Continuous Professional Development * Ability to direct own research and work independently | Application  Interview  Other |