

Candidate Information

Position:	Research Fellow
School/Department:	School of Natural and Built Environment
Reference:	25/112942
Closing Date:	Monday 27 October 2025
Salary:	£41,519 - £49,536 per annum.
Duration:	18 months

JOB PURPOSE:

To be a highly productive, ambitious and collaborative member of research team assisting in the ESRC funded TRACC (Transdisciplinary Research Actions for Resilient Coastal Communities) through the delivery of the research activities specifically on coastal community resilience, sustainability and marine governance using arts based and social science research methods. A key component of the project is to build transdisciplinary theory and practices for coastal community resilience across diverse stakeholders in the UK and within the project team.

The post is a critical role for the TRACC project, and as such, successful applicants will have responsibilities in independent research, supervision, engaging with coastal community stakeholders, planning coastal community resilience activities, collaboration with the broader TRACC project team, outreach and networking across the UK.

Please note that this position may be appointable on a part-time basis. The successful candidate must be able to start in early January 2026.

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Contribute to the research and training activities required by the QUB team to fulfil its role in the TRACC project.
2. Undertake research tasks during the project with the support of the project co-investigators based at Queen's University Belfast and the network of UK project partners, as a member of a research team.
3. Support the research team leading in the delivery of knowledge synthesis in ocean-climate literacy and community resilience.
4. Undertake research activities to co-design and test novel arts-based and social science transdisciplinary research- governance approaches and tools across the NI/IRE case study area.
5. Assist with co-creation of transdisciplinary action plans and learning cycles between researchers, stakeholders and the coastal communities.
6. Produce high quality research outputs consistent with project aims and commensurate with career stage. This will include collaborating and co-authoring with PI and project team (as appropriate) on outputs.
7. Participate in outreach and dissemination activities promoting the TRACC project presenting outcomes at meetings, project workshops and outputs at national and international conferences and through social media.
8. Undertake professional development and training relevant to the role.
9. Study and follow academic, policy and community-based literature including academic journals, research reports, community campaigns, and policy developments to keep abreast with the state-of-the-art in the project area.
10. Assist grant holder in the preparation of further funding proposals and applications to external bodies to build on outputs from TRACC.
11. Carry out occasional educational supervision, demonstrating or lecturing duties within the post holder's area of expertise and under the direct guidance of a member of academic staff.
12. Undertake supplementary duties relevant to the success of the project including administrative duties and additional training and development activities as required.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. Have obtained a PhD in Planning, Geography or Social Sciences.
2. Specific, relevant* research experience to include:
 - Undertaking research in the area of coastal communities.
 - A proven track record of using relevant arts based qualitative methods with coastal communities.
 - Have published at least one peer-reviewed, journal article on issues related to marine governance and/or ocean literacy.
 - Sufficient breadth of knowledge in available strategies, techniques and methods for undertaking coastal community based transdisciplinary research.
 - Working effectively as part of a research team in the development and promotion of ocean-climate literacy.
 - Willingness to contribute to project outreach activities.
 - Ability to logically conceptualise and summarise the research findings.
 - Ability to work proactively and independently.
 - Ability to participate in knowledge transfer and demonstration.
 - Evidence of strong publication record commensurate with stage of career.
3. Demonstrable ability to contribute to broader management and administrative processes.
4. Contribute to the School's outreach programme by links with industry, community groups etc.
5. Practical problem solving skills, independence of thought and initiative.
6. Ability to organise resources, manage time, and meet deadlines.
7. Ability to communicate complex information in English effectively in oral and written format.
8. Ability to build relationships to develop internal and external networks.
9. Commitment to continuous professional development.
10. Willingness to occasionally work outside core hours, for example during data collection and potentially travel to other institutions of the project team.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. Have experience of policy analysis, preferably using recognised systematic approaches.
2. Knowledge of Irish and/or UK marine governance processes.
3. Employment or practical experience of community work or other aspect of community development.
4. Practical experience of applying specialist skills and techniques required for the post.
5. Experience of translating research findings into educational materials.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Informal enquiries can be directed to: Dr Heather Ritchie - heather.ritchie@qub.ac.uk.