Candidate Information

Position:	Research Fellow
School/Department:	School of Natural and Built Environment
Reference:	19/107414
Closing Date:	Thursday 23 May 2019
Salary:	£33,199 - £39,610 per annum (potential to progress to £43,266 per annum through sustained exceptional contribution)
Anticipated Interview Date:	Monday 3 June 2019
Duration:	Until 30 Sept 2020

JOB PURPOSE:

This full time,14 month post is funded by EPSRC and is part of a larger project based in QUB entitled: Advancing Creative Circular Economies for Plastics via Technological-Social Transitions (ACCEPT Transitions). The post will be aligned chiefly to one work-package which aims to develop and prototype a 3-D interlocking block, using plastic waste to suit the principles of circular design. In addition the post will also coordinate outputs across other work-packages to present at a final event.

The candidate is expected to be a pro-active member of the research team, driving forward the implementation of the research project and the planning and delivery of the research activity in the area of 3-D interlocking block made from plastic waste, in order to ensure that the overall research objectives are met. This is a quality-led project that seeks to incorporate feedback from industry and end users through a design-led approach, informed by material properties and manufacturing techniques. It is also anticipated that the PDRA brings their own areas of expertise and interest to the role.

The role will involve working directly with QUB Polymer Centre, psychology researchers, architects, engineers and designers and will be based in the School of the Natural and Built Environment. The wider research team is made up of chemists, political scientists and mechanical engineers.

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Develop and plan the work-package in consultation with the associated academic investigators and in line with the overall project and work-package aims and objectives.
2. Design, develop and refine research, experiments and prototypes in order to obtain reliable data.
3. Carry out analyses, critical evaluations, and interpretations using methodologies and other techniques appropriate to area of research.
4. Present regular progress reports on research to members of the research group or to external audiences to disseminate and publicise research findings.
5. Prepare, often in consultation with supervisor, material for publication in national and international journals and presentations at international conferences.
6. Assist grant holder in the preparation of funding proposals and applications to external bodies.
7. Carry out routine administrative tasks associated with the research project/s to ensure that project/s are completed on time and within budget. These might include organisation of project meetings and documentation, financial control, risk assessment of research activities.
8. Read academic papers, journals and textbooks to keep abreast of developments in own specialism and related disciplines.

Planning and Organising:

1. Plan for specific aspects of research programmes and contribute to research group planning.
2. Plan for the use of research resources, laboratories and workshops where appropriate.
3. Plan own day-to day activity within framework of the agreed research programme.

4. Plan up to a year in advance to meet deadlines for journal publications and to prepare presentations and papers for conferences.
5. Coordinate and liaise with other members of the research group over work progress.

Resource Management Responsibilities:

1. Ensure research resources are used in an effective and efficient manner.
2. Provide guidance as required to support staff and any students who may be assisting with research.

Internal and External Relationships:

1. Liaise on a regular basis with colleagues and students.
2. Build internal contacts and participate in internal networks for the exchange of information and to form relationships for future collaboration.
3. Join external networks to share information and ideas.
4. Contribute to the School's outreach programme by establishing links with local community groups, industries etc.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. Have or be about to obtain a relevant PhD.
   (for example: Architecture, Civil Engineering, Product Design, Materials, Design, Construction)
2. At least 3 years research experience in area related to project
3. Publication record commensurate with career
4. Experience of carrying out industrial related research
5. Ability to contribute to broader management and administrative processes.
6. Ability to contribute to the research team's impact and outreach activities.
7. Sufficient breadth and depth of specialist knowledge in materials and building elements, and of research methods and techniques to work within established research programmes.
8. Familiarity with Circular Economy Thinking.
9. Ability to communicate complex information clearly.
10. Ability to build contacts and participate in internal and external networks.
11. Demonstrable intellectual ability.
12. Ability to assess and organise resources.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. A design-based qualification
2. Have published more than three first-author journal papers.
3. 3D Modelling (analogue and digital) and Prototyping Skills
4. Have obtained external recognition for presentation of research – in poster, paper or exhibition formats