QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST

EST 1845

Candidate Information

Position: Research Fellow in the Centre for Public Health
School/Department: Centre for Public Health
Reference: 22/109778
Closing Date: Monday 16 May 2022
Salary: £34,304 - £38,587 per annum
Anticipated Interview Date: Thursday 26 May 2022
Duration: Available until 31/08/2026

JOB PURPOSE:

The GroundsWell Consortium, recently funded by the UK Prevention Research Partnership, aims to drive community innovation by applying systems science that maximises the contribution of Urban Green and Blue Space to the primary prevention of, and reduction of inequalities in, non-communicable diseases in urban settings. The Consortium has over 20 co-investigators across 7 institutions, as well as a range of non-academic stakeholders. The post-holders will liaise with the investigators and researchers based at Queen's University, Belfast, University of Liverpool and University of Edinburgh. The Research Fellow will work closely with the Directors, project partners and the Consortium Management group.

You will take responsibility for designing, analysing and disseminating a programme of co-produced research as part of GroundsWell. This will entail working with partners to co-develop and implement systems evaluations of a set of urban green and blue space interventions in Northern Ireland, publishing and disseminating outputs to relevant members in the consortium and the wider scientific community.

We are interested in adding to our team researchers interested in systems-thinking with skills in undertaking systems evaluations of population health interventions using methods such as (but not restricted to) system mapping, process tracing, ripple effects mapping and systems modelling.

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Plan, design and deliver high quality research evaluating how urban green and blue spaces influence health and can tackle health inequalities, using systems evaluation methods.
2. Co-design research projects with GroundsWell researchers, external organisations and public involvement.
3. Identify new and emerging systems science techniques that will enhance project design and analytical rigour.
4. Lead on research publications and outputs, as well as collaborate and support projects/outputs with others within GroundsWell.
5. Disseminate diverse types of outputs to a range of groups including both scientific, policy and lay audiences.
6. Prepare and present regular updates on research progress to the GroundsWell team.
7. Attend meetings and conferences, both nationally and internationally, to promote research and support outreach activities.
8. Build and sustain relationships with other researchers in GroundsWell, as well as establish new networks outside of GroundsWell relevant to the project.
9. Potentially supervise PhD students, where required and desired.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. A primary degree in in a relevant discipline, e.g., Public Health, social science, epidemiology or equivalent discipline.
2. Have a relevant PhD in a Public Health or Social Science or relevant subject area.
3. At least 3 years' research experience in systems evaluation methods such as (but not restricted to) systems mapping, process tracing or systems modelling, as evidenced by publication in peer reviewed journals.
4. Experience in undertaking systems evaluations of population health interventions.
5. Knowledge of a range of systems-thinking and complexity science techniques.
6. Proven ability to work with a range of stakeholders.

7.   Excellent organisational skills.

8.   Excellent inter-personal skills.

9.   Excellent oral and written communication skills.

10.   Ability to write reports and meet deadlines.

11.   Good presentation skills including ability to articulate complex information clearly.

12.   Articulate, fluent.

13.   Ability to work independently and on own initiative.

14.   Strong commitment to a career in research.

15.   Access to transport and willingness to travel to meet the needs of the post.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1.   Statistical skills applicable to the evaluation of complex interventions, such as analysis of experiments or quasi-experiments.

2.   Subject knowledge on the importance of green and blue spaces and/or the drivers of health inequalities.

3.   Experience working as part of a multidisciplinary team.