



Candidate Information

Position:	Research Fellows
School/Department:	School of Natural and Built Environment
Reference:	22/110162
Closing Date:	Monday 19 September 2022
Salary:	£35,333 per annum.
Anticipated Interview Date:	Tuesday 11 October 2022
Duration:	Fixed Term 36 months and 12 months

JOB PURPOSE:

EmpowerUs is a 3-year Horizon Europe marine social science project that will work with coastal communities in 6 living labs to develop social innovations to address persistent coastal issues and enable communities to better benefit from the marine economy. Through the development of community interventions and innovations, the EmpowerUs project will enable coastal communities to act for change and transition towards sustainable, inclusive and resilient coastal developments. The research fellows (one 36-month post and one initial 12-month post, with potential for extension) will be active members of the EmpowerUs research team at QUB, assisting in the collection and analysis of socio-economic data relating to coastal communities. These posts will contribute to the development, implementation, and evaluation of community interventions and innovations. The post requires a solid background in social science methods, demonstrable experience in conducting environmental/community planning research, and good knowledge of participatory research approaches.

For the 12-month post, we may consider the fellow working part-time over a longer period of time.

Please note that for both roles the successful candidate must have the right to work both in Ireland and the UK.

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Undertake research under the supervision of PI and/or CI within the EmpowerUs project.
2. Design, develop, and refine research using a range of social science methods. Conduct primary data collection with individuals and groups within the living lab.
3. Review literature on coastal and community development, the social economy, blue economy, blue growth, and other topics that become relevant to the living labs (e.g. coastal tourism, heritage, marine renewables).
4. Review marine spatial plans and other policies related to coastal development in Ireland.
5. Draft working papers, reports, policy briefs, reporting on the outcomes of EmpowerUs.
6. 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.
7. Act as an assistant supervisor to any PhDs recruited to the project.
8. Undertake supplementary duties relevant to the success of the project including administrative duties and additional training and development activities as required.
9. Track and report on the impact of the project to funders, policymakers and stakeholders.
10. Attend project meetings, including outside Northern Ireland.
11. Organise and lead workshops in the living labs.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. Degree or equivalent in subject relevant to research activity (e.g. geography, sociology, or environmental planning and policy).
2. Have or about to obtain a PhD in relevant topic (e.g. environmental planning/policy, urban planning, human geography, sociology, community development).
3. At least 3 years relevant research experience.
4. Experience of using both quantitative and qualitative research methods.

5. Demonstrable experience in collecting, analysing and reporting primary social science data.
6. At least one, peer-reviewed publication as lead author.
7. Capacity to design and test social innovations or interventions.
8. Strong track record of research communication and dissemination.
9. Experience of outreach and/or stakeholder engagement during research projects.
10. Flexibility and willingness to adapt to new tasks and activities.
11. Ability to communicate complex information in English effectively in oral and written format.
12. Ability to build relationships to develop internal and external networks.
13. Commitment to continuous professional development.
14. Demonstrable ability to work independently with a high level of self-motivation while also working to support a wider team.
15. Demonstrate right to work both in the UK and Ireland.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. Have experience of programme, project, or impact evaluation.
2. Demonstrable experience of working effectively as part of a larger research team.
3. A strong publication record, commensurate with career stage.
4. Publications on marine or coastal issues.
5. Demonstrable experience of participatory or action research or community outreach.
6. Experience of using different medias to communicate research findings to non-academic audiences.
7. Experience of using GIS.
8. Knowledge of Nature Based Solutions.
9. Demonstrable experience in drafting reports for stakeholder communities.
10. Have completed project management training.