

Candidate Information

Position:	RiSC+ Research Fellow - Fashion Supply Chains
School/Department:	Queen's Business School
Reference:	25/112355
Closing Date:	Tuesday 28 January 2025
Salary:	£39,922 - £43,605 per annum
Anticipated Interview Date:	Wednesday 12 February 2025 (Thursday 13 February 2025 to be confirmed)
Duration:	Fixed Term - Full Time; Available for approx. 3 years

JOB PURPOSE:

To be a highly productive, ambitious and collaborative member of the RiSC+ team assisting in the development of research proposals and the planning and delivery of the research activity specifically in Modelling UK Supply Chains as complex systems for resilience.

The post is a critical role, and as such, successful applicants will have responsibilities in independent research, research planning and reporting and for collaboration with project partners.

The post is part of the ReImagining Supply Chains Network Plus (RiSC+ Network) project, whose main aim is to model and reimagine supply chains across the UK in food, critical minerals and fashion. The RiSC+ Network will offer evidence that exposes vulnerabilities, remedies current risks and demonstrates future potential, ultimately helping to empower the UK to move towards more resilient and secure supply chains.

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Undertake research under supervision into Modelling UK fashion supply chains as complex systems for improved resilience.
2. Conduct interviews, surveys, case studies and/or focus groups to gather insights from stakeholders to understand supply chain risks and uncertainty, for example, reduced petrochemicals availability leading to shortages of synthetic fibres and dyes in the context of rapidly changing consumer demand.
3. Collaborate with internal and external stakeholders, including industry practitioners, researchers, and policymakers, to translate research into practice.
4. Assist in modelling supply chains for key supply chains and develop new ways in which supply chains could operate and be configured to increase their resilience to external threats and factors such as climate change and geopolitical tensions.
5. Carry out analyses, critical evaluations, and interpretations of data and literature using methodologies and other techniques appropriate for fashion-related research.
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. In consultation with the project team, promote research milestones and outputs at national and international conferences.
8. Assist grant holder in the preparation of funding proposals and applications to external bodies.
9. 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.
10. Undertake supplementary duties relevant to the success of the project including administrative duties and additional training and development activities as required.
11. Disseminate diverse types of outputs to a range of groups including scientific, policy, industry and lay audiences.
12. Prepare and present regular updates on research progress to the RiSC+ Network team.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. Hold at least a 2:1 honours degree (or equivalent) in Social Science, Business Administration, Industrial Engineering or closely related discipline.

2. Have, or be about to obtain, a relevant PhD in Social Science, Business Administration, Industrial Engineering or closely related discipline (Candidates about to receive their PhD should provide proof that their viva is scheduled within two months).
3. Recent relevant research experience to include:
 - Demonstrable experience in conducting research using qualitative skills such as case studies, interviews, or focus groups to gather insights from practitioners and experts during workshops/seminars/events;
 - Experience in designing or developing policy and legislations to assist decision making;
 - A track record of publications appropriate to stage in career;
 - A proven track record of using relevant techniques to carry out analyses, critical evaluations, and interpretations of data and literature as relevant to the research project;
 - Working effectively as part of a research team in the development and promotion of the research theme.
4. Ability to contribute to broader management and administrative processes.
5. A sufficient breadth of knowledge of qualitative methods.
6. Ability to work in a team.
7. Willingness to undertake additional training in research methods and other related skills as required.
8. Practical problem solving skills, independence of thought and initiative.
9. Ability to communicate complex information effectively in oral and written format.
10. Ability to build relationships to develop internal and external networks.
11. Ability to assess and organise resources.
12. Excellent interpersonal skills.
13. Willing to spend time on placement at partner facilities/travel to same on a regular and frequent basis if needed.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. Demonstrable experience in:
 - Knowledge and understanding of the complexities in the global fashion supply chain;
 - supply chain mapping and analysis;
 - digital technology aligned to the fashion and textile supply chain;
 - Understanding policy and legislation relating to the fashion supply chain;
 - Industry experience in relevant sectors.
2. Demonstrable experience in statistical techniques and tools such as SPSS and R for processing data.
3. Demonstrable experience with computer coding languages (such as R, Python).
4. Strong analytical and problem-solving abilities.
5. Understanding of fashion/textile and their applications.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Informal enquiries may be directed to Hangfei Guo at h.guo@qub.ac.uk