Candidate Information

Position: Research Assistant (Programming)
School/Department: School of Natural and Built Environment
Reference: 25/112760
Closing Date: Monday 25 August 2025
Salary: £35,136 per annum
Anticipated Interview Date: Friday 5 September 2025
Duration: 9 months

JOB PURPOSE:

To contribute towards the creation of an outward facing web user interface for non-specialists to access census data dating back to 1971, for both common geographies and also bespoke user-defined neighbourhoods; to work with the NI Longitudinal Study (NILS) team to produce a searchable, digital data dictionary with harmonized variables across the years of data collection to form the basis of a flexible table builder.

The successful candidate will have a background in computer/data science, and specifically have computer programming experience, working with programming languages such as Python or R, in order to develop and maintain data analysis and statistical computing applications. As this role will involve working closely alongside the project teams in the design and development of an interactive web-based data dashboard, proven experience in the creation of interactive websites is also desirable.

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. To manage, manipulate, link, and recode large Census datasets.
2. To develop and maintain data analysis and statistical computing applications.
3. To work closely alongside the project teams in the design and development of an interactive web-based data dashboard and a harmonised NILS data product.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. Hold at least a 2:1 degree or equivalent in Data Science, Computer Science or a related field.
2. Demonstrable proficiency in Python and/or R.
3. Demonstrable ability to write and maintain clean, efficient, and well-documented code for data analysis and statistical tasks.
4. Ability to manage, manipulate, link, and recode datasets.
5. Ability to contribute to method improvement where required.
6. Practical problem-solving skills, independence of thought and initiative.
7. Ability to assess and organise resources.
8. Ability to communicate complex information in English effectively in oral and written format.
9. Ability to build relationships to develop internal and external networks.
10. Commitment to continuous professional development.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. Knowledge and experience in the creation of interactive data visualizations and dashboards.
2. Knowledge of GIS.
3. Experience of working in a team.
4. Experience of working with large datasets.
5. Experience of socially-engaged research.
6. Experience of large language models.