



Candidate Information

Position:	Research Fellow
School/Department:	School of Natural and Built Environment
Reference:	26/113204
Closing Date:	Monday 13 April 2026
Salary:	£41,519-£44,035 per annum (pro rata)
Anticipated Interview Date:	Tuesday 5 May 2026
Duration:	36 Months or 28 February 2029, whichever is soonest

JOB PURPOSE:

This role supports the Belfast pilot of JustREACH, a Horizon Europe project developing socially grounded, practically usable tools for just climate adaptation. The Belfast pilot focuses on the community-growing sector as a real-world context for participatory adaptation, governance learning and distributed green-blue infrastructures. The consortium uses multi-stakeholder workshops, qualitative research, decision-support tools and social-learning videos to translate evidence into implementation pathways with regional partners. The community-growing sector is chosen for its active networks and relevance to climate risks in Belfast, offering a practice-based audience for testing inclusive, place-based adaptation approaches. The role is to lead and co-ordinate day-to-day qualitative and spatial research for the Belfast pilot, covering stakeholder engagement (policy actors and community-garden representatives), interview design and delivery, co-design workshop planning/facilitation, rigorous research documentation and synthesis aligned to Belfast pilot-site tasks and deliverables, and preparation of high-quality research outputs. The postholder will also support the PI with project logistics, partner liaison and reporting, and collaborate with the social-learning video team to ensure accurate and clear representation of activities and findings. The role suits a highly organised, self-directed researcher who exercises initiative with care and accuracy, communicates well across disciplines, and has strong visual communication skills for turning complex ideas into clear, publication-ready materials.

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Map stakeholders; recruit participants (policy makers; community-garden representatives); schedule and conduct semi-structured interviews.
2. Plan, co-ordinate and facilitate co-design workshops; prepare materials; ensure ethics/GDPR compliance and risk management.
3. Curate interview and workshop records (notes/transcripts where appropriate); synthesise material into clear 'systematic representations' of barriers/opportunities, needs/values and implementation pathways, producing policy-relevant narratives, visuals and insights, in line with agreed authorship and contribution norms.
4. Draft high-quality outputs (working papers, briefs, reports, presentations) with the PI and partners; contribute to dissemination activities embedded in the programme.
5. Translate research into concise maps, diagrams and illustrations, maintaining high production standards suitable for academic and policy audiences.
6. Work with the social-learning video team on scoping/storyboarding to ensure factual accuracy and effective visual storytelling of methods and results.
7. Manage day-to-day delivery (workplans, logistics, minutes, partner liaison); track milestones/risks; support internal and external collaborator facing reporting.
8. Present interim findings to partners and relevant forums; contribute to accessible summaries while maintaining research integrity and methodological clarity.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. Normally have or be about to obtain a PhD in a relevant field with demonstrable expertise in place-based climate adaptation (e.g., architecture/urbanism, environmental social science, human geography, planning).
2. Substantial experience designing and conducting qualitative and codesign research.

3. Proven experience organising and facilitating co-design workshops with diverse stakeholders, including community organisations and public servants.
4. Track record of producing publishable research outputs (papers, briefings, reports) appropriate to career stage.
5. Ability to translate findings into clear visuals/maps/diagrams that meet academic and policy standards.
6. Evidence of project co-ordination: scheduling fieldwork, managing participant recruitment, logistics, and record-keeping to deadlines.
7. Demonstrated stakeholder engagement with policy actors and community organisations; ethical practice.
8. Willingness to contribute to School/consortium activities, meetings and reporting.
9. Competence in graphic and mapping production (e.g., QGIS/ArcGIS; Adobe Illustrator/InDesign) to create accurate, well-structured visual materials.
10. Excellent written and verbal communication for mixed audiences (academic, policy, community).
11. Strong understanding of research ethics, safeguarding, and data protection in applied fieldwork.
12. Ability to present complex material clearly and succinctly, using high-quality visuals and plain-English summaries for non-academic partners.
13. Ability to build relationships to develop internal and external networks.
14. Highly organised self-starter: plans and prioritises both independently and in collaboration with the PI, meets deadlines, and maintains meticulous attention to detail.
15. Initiative with care: proactive and solution-oriented while exercising sound judgement to avoid errors.
16. Collaborative and respectful: works well in a small, cross-disciplinary team and with external partners; reliable and responsive.
17. Availability for Belfast-based fieldwork (workshops/interviews) and occasional consortium events in other countries.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. Training in participatory/co-design facilitation and community engagement methods.
2. Training in qualitative methods.
3. Short courses in research ethics/GDPR and data management for applied fieldwork.
4. Postgraduate study or micro-credentials related to place-based climate adaptation, nature-based solutions, or blue-green infrastructure.
5. Professional affiliation in a relevant field (e.g., architecture, built-environment, planning, environment) or evidence of equivalent professional development.
6. Evidence of training in visual storytelling/communication for public audiences (e.g., policy brief design, data visualisation, or media-supported engagement).
7. Familiarity with the Belfast/NI climate adaptation context (flood risk, SuDS/blue-green infrastructure, community resilience) or comparable UK/IE contexts.
8. Experience working with community-growing/urban greening initiatives or third-sector partners.
9. Contribution to grant/report writing and research data management plans.
10. Experience building and sustaining cross-sector networks (policy, community, academia).
11. Contribution to public engagement (talks, briefings, community events).
12. Awareness of participatory governance and nature-based solutions relevant to urban adaptation.
13. Familiarity with collaborative mixed-media workflows (e.g., working with social-learning video teams).
14. Experience delivering briefings and facilitating multi-stakeholder sessions with confident presentation skills.
15. Evidenced ability to build rapport quickly across sectors (policy, third sector, community) and maintain constructive relationships.
16. Ability to start promptly in line with project timelines.
17. Ability to travel between sites as required.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Informal contact: Prof. Tom Jefferies T.Jefferies@qub.ac.uk