



Candidate Information

Position:	Research Fellow in Climate Action (0.6FTE)
School/Department:	School of History, Anthropology, Philosophy and Politics
Reference:	26/113280
Closing Date:	Monday 4 May 2026
Salary:	£41,519 per annum (pro-rata)
Anticipated Interview Date:	Thursday 21 May 2026
Duration:	Available 20 months or until 23 February 2028, whichever is soonest.

JOB PURPOSE:

QUB's Centre for Sustainability, Equality and Climate Action (SECA) seeks to recruit a highly motivated and experienced postdoctoral Research Fellow to contribute to 'Goals for Climate', a new partnership between Queen's University Belfast, Groundwork NI, and the IFA Foundation. Funded by a grant from the National Lottery Community Fund, the Research Fellow will play an invaluable role within the 'Goals for Climate' project, collaborating with project partners to undertake participatory action research (PAR).

Working closely with the PI, the Research Fellow will play a central role in research design and implementation, conducting research, analysing data and sharing learning from the project. As such, the Research Fellow should have mixed methods research experience, particularly in conducting interviews and surveys; experience in facilitating PAR and focus groups is also desirable.

In tandem with social science research experience, the Research Fellow must have an applied background in community work and education in order to contribute fully to the developmental aspects of this PAR project. Such practical experience, along with excellent interpersonal skills, are essential for building collaborative relationships and networks with project partners to achieve project aims. The Research Fellow will also be required to contribute to knowledge dissemination and should have experience of research communication using a variety of mechanisms (public talks, workshops with stakeholders, social media, plain English articles, academic publications, etc.).

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Plan and develop contributions to the project.
2. Build and maintain collaborative relationships and networks.
3. Work with the PI, colleagues and partner organisations to identify and build relationships with other key stakeholders.
4. Conduct mixed methods research, independently and under supervision.
5. Undertake transcription duties and thematic analysis of data.
6. Contribute to shared learning and knowledge dissemination within and beyond the 'Goals for Climate' project, using a variety of mechanisms.
7. Co-produce high quality research outputs consistent with project aims and commensurate with career stage.
8. Contribute to development of the Centre for Sustainability, Equality and Climate Action (SECA), undertaking administrative, organisational and developmental activities.
9. Undertake supplementary duties relevant to the success of the project including administrative duties and additional training and development activities as required.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. Normally have or be about to obtain a PhD in a relevant social science discipline, such as sociology or politics.

2. Relevant experience to include:
 - Social Science research, with: experience of conducting mixed methods/ qualitative primary data collection; secondary data synthesis; and relevant qualitative analysis skills.
 - Practical experience in community work.
 - Experience as an educator (in formal/ non-formal/ informal settings).
 - Working effectively as part of a research team in the development and promotion of the research theme.
3. Ability to undertake administrative and organisational tasks.
4. Experience of knowledge and research dissemination using various mechanisms (talks, workshops, social media, plain English articles, academic publications, etc.).
5. Ability to deal competently with administrative tasks.
6. Well-developed IT skills e.g. Microsoft Office suite.
7. Excellent organisational skills.
8. Excellent inter-personal skills.
9. Ability to write reports and meet deadlines.
10. Practical problem solving skills, independence of thought and initiative.
11. Willingness to occasionally work non-traditional hours and travel to meet the needs of the project.
12. Ability to communicate complex information effectively in oral and written format.
13. Ability to build relationships to develop internal and external networks.
14. Ability to assess and organise resources.
15. Ability to work independently and on own initiative, and work collaboratively.
16. Ability to work under supervision, meet deadlines on time, and contribute to achievement of project goals.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. Display evidence of interest in society-environment interactions and applied community-oriented research.
2. Have, or be about to obtain, a postgraduate qualification in community development/ sustainable development/ adult and community education.
3. Knowledge of climate action policy and practice, in Northern Ireland.
4. Experience of conducting participatory action research.
5. Sufficient breadth and depth of knowledge in a variety of research methods and techniques pertinent to the project.
6. Publication record commensurate with stage of career.
7. Willingness to supervise / co-supervise students on placement/ undertaking research.
8. Willingness to undertake additional training in research methods and other related skills, if/ as required.