

Candidate Information

Position: Lecturer in Physical Geography
School/Department: School of Natural and Built Environment
Reference: 26/113611
Closing Date: Monday 14 September 2026
Salary: £46,936 - £64,890
Anticipated Interview Date: Thursday 22 & Friday 23 October 2026
Duration: Permanent

JOB PURPOSE:

The School of Natural and Built Environment seeks to appoint a Lecturer in Physical Geography to support and enhance our teaching and research portfolio within Geography, the School and the wider Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences. This full-time, permanent post will contribute to Queen's University Belfast's commitment to world-class research, sustainability leadership, and societal impact.

The successful candidate will have expertise in Physical Geography/Geoscience, with a research focus on climate change-particularly Earth system dynamics, environmental resilience, and/or natural hazards. We welcome applicants whose work addresses contemporary environmental challenges and their societal implications, supported by approaches such as GIS, remote sensing, and environmental modelling. The post offers an opportunity to strengthen the School's geoscience capacity and contribute to interdisciplinary teaching and research aligned with institutional priorities in sustainability and climate action.

The appointee will develop an internationally recognised research profile, securing external funding, publishing in leading journals, and contributing to collaborative initiatives across the School and University. They will be expected to build partnerships with government, NGOs, and industry to ensure their research delivers applied insights and enhances student engagement with real-world environmental issues.

The successful candidate will also contribute to professionally accredited teaching at undergraduate and postgraduate levels across Geography and the School. Responsibilities include delivering lectures, fieldwork, group-based learning, project supervision, and supporting the coordination and administration of interdisciplinary modules.

In addition to advancing Physical Geography, the postholder will contribute to the School's wider research strengths by engaging with themes linked to the UN Sustainable Development Goals and Queen's Global Challenges. This includes developing a distinctive interdisciplinary agenda addressing socio-spatial challenges arising from environmental, technological, economic, and governance change. The role requires building a strong research profile through competitive funding, high-quality publications, PhD supervision, and impactful knowledge-exchange activity.

MAJOR DUTIES:

Teaching:

1. Utilise a range of teaching methods in the design and delivery of teaching and assessment activities in Physical Geography which enhance student employability and reflect industry skill requirements.
2. Develop approaches to teaching and learning that are appropriate for the subject area and the cross-disciplinary approach the School takes to the Natural and Built Environment, while delivering outstanding learning outcomes.
3. Contribute to the development of a variety of innovative teaching programmes associated with the needs of the School.
4. Align personal research objectives to ensure the development of research-led teaching reflecting state-of-the-art emerging practices and techniques. Design/update modules in line with School's interdisciplinary teaching strategy and the development plans for the related programmes.

5. Manage all resources required to deliver a quality educational student experience and contribute to the University's international reputation and collaborations.

Research:

1. Conduct research in areas of physical geography that complements and enhances the ongoing research of the discipline area and the School of Natural and Built Environment, sustaining a personal research plan by managing and undertaking research activities leading to a REF return in Geography and Environmental Sciences (UoA 14).
2. Sustain a high-quality publication record by publishing in peer-reviewed journals and presenting at conferences to assist individual research and enhance the School's international research profile.
3. Develop research proposals and funding bids, independently or in collaboration with others as appropriate.
4. Assist with building, supervising, and sustaining a research group utilising physical geography-based facilities and research profile of staff within the School.
5. Supervise student research projects which may involve an extensive range of topic areas both inside and outside the post-holder's own specialist area.
6. Be actively involved and engaged with the QUB-Aberdeen NERC-BBSRC "QUARTILES" Doctoral Landscape Award, contributing to PhD student supervision, student support, and the advancement of research excellence.
7. Direct, coach and develop research staff, where appropriate.
8. Ensure that research projects are completed on time and within budget.
9. Develop networks of research excellence both nationally and internationally.

Administration/Contribution to the Community:

1. Contribute to the School's outreach strategy by developing external links and supporting student recruitment.
2. Develop links with relevant external bodies to encourage knowledge transfer opportunities and create opportunities for future research projects.
3. Provide pastoral care for students within own area to ensure, as far as practicable, that all relevant issues are dealt with in a timely, sympathetic, and effective manner, including as Personal Academic Tutor if appropriate.
4. Take on administrative roles within the School as delegated by line manager, and carry out designated School functions, including, for example, participation in committee work, assisting in the process of admissions, preparation of submission for teaching quality assessment or the REF.
5. Mentor colleagues to share expertise and experience.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. Ph.D (awarded or with corrections only to be made) in Physical Geography, Earth Sciences, Environmental Science, or a closely related discipline.
2. Experience of teaching and supporting student learning in one or more settings (e.g., lectures, tutorials, laboratory/practical classes, field classes).
3. Evidence of a developing track record of high-quality peer-reviewed research outputs appropriate to career stage.
4. Evidence of engagement beyond academia through research, knowledge exchange, professional practice or public engagement
5. Ability to work collaboratively with colleagues across teaching, research and administration.
6. Clear, engaging and well-paced presentation delivered within the allotted time. Effective use of visual materials that support and enhance the verbal presentation.
7. Use of GIS and/or remote sensing in teaching and/or research.
8. The panel will take appropriate account of career-stage, personal circumstances and other relevant mitigating factors in accordance with the University's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion principles.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. Ph.D focussed on climate change science.
2. Experience of Government, NGO, consultancy, industrial partnership or collaboration.
3. PGCHE (or equivalent) teaching qualification. Evidence of substantial organisation / delivery of teaching – e.g., designing / leading modules.
4. Further papers published in high quality international journals.
5. Demonstrable societal, environmental, policy or economic impact.
6. Demonstrates clear, engaging and effective verbal and visual communication.
7. Awareness of the opportunities, limitations and responsible use of generative AI and related technologies in teaching and/or research.

8. Panel to consider mitigating factors.