



## THE POST

<b>College:</b>	<b>College of Life and Environment Sciences</b>
<b>Post:</b>	<b>Postdoctoral Research Impact Fellow</b>
<b>Reference No:</b>	<b>R80958</b>
<b>Grade:</b>	<b>F 32</b>
<b>HERA:</b>	<b>RFEL</b>
<b>Reporting To:</b>	<b>Patrick Devine-Wright</b>

### Job Description

The above full time, fixed term post is available immediately in the College of Life and Environmental Sciences on a fixed term basis until 31 January 2025, with potential extension until the end of the project (31 January 2027) subject to evaluation of project needs, circumstances and approval. The post holder will be based on the University of Exeter's Streatham Campus.

### Main purpose of the job:

This post is an opportunity to make a significant intellectual contribution to informing the development of environmental social science capacity and expertise in the UK and beyond.

The successful applicant will be responsible for working on the exciting £6.25m ESRC funded ACCESS project: Advancing Capacity for Climate and Environment Social Science. ACCESS involves world-leading social science and interdisciplinary experts led by the Universities of Exeter and Surrey with the Universities of Bath, Leeds & Sussex and the Natural Environment Social Research Network (Natural Resources Wales, NatureScot, Natural England, Environment Agency and Forest Research), and a wider network of partners from policy, industry, civil society and academic sectors.

The successful applicant will work directly with the ACCESS leadership team to champion the development of environmental social science, including contributing to new research in this area. They will be supported to continue to develop their own research agenda alongside the ACCESS programme, including time to develop grant proposals (e.g. to the £1m Flexible Fund), attend conferences and write publications.

The project aims to champion and coordinate social science to address key environmental challenges spanning biodiversity, sustainability and decarbonisation, through the following aims:

1. Map, assess and learn from the past experiences of social scientists in climate and environment training, research, policy and practice. This knowledge will be used to develop and test new resources to impact interdisciplinary education, research and knowledge mobilisation with stakeholders, catalysing change in policy culture, institutions (e.g., civil service), businesses and civil society.
2. Innovate by creating new ideas and testing new approaches that enable social scientists to play influential, leading roles in addressing environmental challenges; and enabling rapid and timely deployment of social science capacity in response to key events or emergencies, impacting specific policy-making and practice decisions.
3. Empower environmental social scientists at different learning and career stages by providing tailored training and capacity building, including master classes, placements, mentoring and collegiate networks that will enhance leadership and knowledge exchange skills.
4. Champion and coordinate environmental social scientists across the UK and internationally by providing an accessible knowledge/data hub and innovative public engagement tracker; building new networks, enabling coordination and collaboration; supporting policy and decision-making and

constructively challenging gaps and misconceptions about social science expertise, approaches and methods.

Specific tasks and activities of the post include:

1. adopting and developing a collaborative approach to the generation and sharing of knowledge;
2. producing new insights about how social scientists can play influential roles in interdisciplinary environmental research;
3. producing insights about the agile deployment of social science capacity in response to stakeholder needs;
4. producing insights about social science research from citizen panels;
5. informing and generating insights from the Transdisciplinary Leadership College;
6. enabling horizon scanning of future research pathways;
7. collating and communicating key environmental social science insights and findings.

Each of these responsibilities will provide opportunities for publishing findings and insights concerning processes of knowledge production, exchange and impact.

### **Main duties and accountabilities:**

1. To undertake research as appropriate to the field of study. The responsibilities may include all or some of the following:
  - Developing research objectives, projects and proposals;
  - Conducting individual or collaborative research projects;
  - Identifying sources of funding and contributing to the process of securing funds;
  - Extending, transforming and applying knowledge acquired from scholarship to research and appropriate external activities;
  - Writing or contributing to publications or disseminating research findings using media appropriate to the discipline;
  - Making presentations at conferences or exhibiting work in other appropriate events;
  - Assessing, interpreting and evaluating outcomes of research;
  - Developing new concepts and ideas to extend intellectual understanding;
  - Resolving problems of meeting research objectives and deadlines;
  - Developing ideas for generating income and promoting research area;
  - Developing ideas for application of research outcomes;
  - Deciding on /following research programmes and methodologies, often in collaboration with colleagues and sometimes subject to the approval of the head of the research programme on fundamental issues.
2. To contribute to teaching and learning programmes in the School and to supervise postgraduate research students, in particular:
  - contribute to the ACCESS Summer School and Transdisciplinary Leadership College.
3. To work as part of a wider project team at Exeter, Surrey and across the ACCESS network:
  - Developing productive working relationships with other members of staff, including the Exeter Data Fellow and operations team (Project Manager, Administrator and Communications Manager) and staff working on ACCESS at the University of Surrey, including postdoctoral researchers;
  - Supervising the work of others, for example in research teams or projects;
  - Co-ordinating the work of colleagues to ensure equitable access to resources and facilities;
  - Dealing with standard problems and help colleagues to resolve their concerns about progress in research.
4. To routinely communicate complex and conceptual ideas to those with limited knowledge as well as to peers and partners using high level skills and a range of media and to present the results of scientific research to sponsors and at conferences.
5. As determined by the nature of the project and at the direction of the PI, to plan, co-ordinate and implement research programme activity including:

- Managing the use of research resources and ensuring that effective use is made of them;
- Monitoring and reporting on the use of research budgets;
- Helping to plan and implement commercial and consultancy activities;
- Where appropriate, to plan and manage own consultancy assignments.

This job description summarises the main duties and accountabilities of the post and is not comprehensive: the post-holder may be required to undertake other duties of similar level and responsibility. Please visit the Human Resources website to view the Research Fellow role profiles.

**Person Specification**

<b>Competency</b>	<b>Essential</b>	<b>Desirable</b>
Attainments/Qualifications	PhD or equivalent qualification/experience in a related environmental social science field of study.	Be a nationally recognised authority in the subject area.
Skills and Understanding	Possess sufficient specialist knowledge in the discipline to develop/follow research programmes and methodologies. Record of research outputs in high quality publications. Possess skills to collect and analyse qualitative and quantitative data. Expertise in collaborative approaches to developing research with diverse stakeholders. Expertise in the communication of social science knowledge, insights and data.	Expertise in interdisciplinary research (e.g. between social science and other disciplinary expertise).  Knowledge of environmental policy agendas (e.g. around Net Zero).
Prior Experience	Experience of managing research projects. Experience of working in a research team. Experience in using collaborative approaches to developing research with diverse stakeholders. Experience of working at the interface of University research and external networks.	Experience of working within an interdisciplinary environment.  Experience of working on collaborative projects with multiple partners.  Experience of acting as principal investigator on research projects.  Experience of agile and rapid response to stakeholder evidence needs.
Behavioural Characteristics	Commitment to the value of the social science in tackling environmental problems. Excellent written, listening and verbal communication skills. Able to communicate complex and conceptual ideas to a range of groups. Evidence of the ability to collaborate actively within the Institution and externally to complete research projects and advance thinking. Able to participate in and develop external networks. Able to balance the pressures of	Able to communicate and engage with non-specialist audiences and communities.  Able to engage with policy makers at national and local levels.  Able to identify sources of funding, generate income, obtain consultancy projects, or build relationships for future activities.

	research, administrative demands and competing deadlines. An understanding of the importance of equality and diversity within an organisation and a commitment to helping create an inclusive culture.	
Circumstances	Willing to work flexibly to achieve project demands	

**Informal Enquiries**

Before submitting an application you may wish to discuss the post further by contacting Patrick Devine-Wright, email [p.g.devine-wright@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:p.g.devine-wright@exeter.ac.uk)

**Terms & Conditions**

Our Terms and Conditions of Employment can be viewed [here](#).

**Further Information**

Please see our [website](#) for further information on working at the University of Exeter.