1 Advertisement

Post Title: Research Fellow – Analysis of interactions among the Sustainable Development Goals  
School/department: School of Global Studies  
Hours: Part time hours 0.5 FTE. Requests for flexible working options will be considered (subject to business need).  
Contract: Fixed term for 2 years  
Reference: 1090  
Salary: Starting at £33,199 and rising to £39,609 per annum, pro rata  
Placed on: 18 July 2019  
Closing date: 10 September 2019. Applications must be received by midnight of the closing date.  
Expected Interview date: tbc  
Expected start date: September 2019

Applications are invited for a Research Fellowship to work with Professor Joseph Alcamo on an interdisciplinary project funded by the Sussex Sustainability Research Programme (SSRP), a collaborative initiative by the University of Sussex and Institute of Development Studies to develop an international programme in sustainability research. The project is entitled “SDG Matrix Project: Methodology for articulating SDG synergies and trade-offs”. The objective of the project is to test and apply a methodology for prioritising SDG synergies and trade-offs. More about the project is given below under “Project Description”.

For this position, the University of Sussex is looking for a PhD or Masters in a field of environmental or sustainability studies, with experience in quantitative analysis (statistics, informatics, applied mathematics, other).

This is an exciting opportunity for an enthusiastic early career scientist. You will be based in the School of Global Studies and will interact with a community of dynamic young scientists working under the umbrella of the SSRP.

Informal enquiries may be made to Professor Alcamo (joseph.alcamo@sussex.ac.uk)

For full details and how to apply see vacancies page

The University of Sussex values the diversity of its staff and students and we welcome applicants from all backgrounds.

2a. The School of Global Studies

The School of Global Studies was established in 2009, and is one of the UK’s leading centres of excellence for teaching, research and debate on global issues. With over 80 members of academic faculty, an annual intake of over 500 students taking undergraduate degrees in Anthropology, Geography, International Relations and International Development,
and over 400 Masters and research students each year, the School is large enough to create a diverse interdisciplinary learning environment, whilst maintaining a close and supportive environment for its staff and students.

2b. Sussex Sustainability Research Programme

The Sussex Sustainability Research Programme (SSRP) was founded in 2015 and was fully staffed in 2017. It spans four of the University’s Schools (Business, Management & Economics; Global Studies; Life Sciences; Law, Politics & Sociology) and the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), to build on distinctive Sussex strengths in sustainability research and policy engagement. The vision of the programme is to provide “Science for the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals). The SSRP addresses complex socio-economic, technical and environmental challenges and is developing problem-focused research across disciplines in the natural and social sciences, and is engaged in 18 LMICs and the UK.

3. Project Description

A main research focus of the Sussex Sustainability Research Programme is the analysis of trade-offs and synergies among Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Research Fellow will contribute to this effort by modifying and applying a methodology for prioritising SDG synergies and trade-offs. This methodology will be a modified form of the “matrix approach” featured in an earlier SSRP study financed by the Rockefeller Foundation and others (see: Scharlemann J, et. al.. 2016. Global Goals Mapping: The Environment-human landscape. Towards a Sustainable Earth (TASE). Sussex Sustainability Research Programme, University of Sussex, Brighton, UK and UN Environment WCMC, Cambridge, UK. https://nerc.ukri.org/research/partnerships/international/tase/mapping/)

This methodology will be applied in a low or medium income country in close collaboration with local stakeholders and academics. Furthermore the Research Fellow will package the methodology so that it can be fruitfully used in other countries, particularly LMIC countries.

4. Job Description

Job Description for the post of: Research Fellow in analysis of interactions among the SDGs

Department: Department of Geography

School: School of Global Studies

Location: Arts C

Grade: Research Fellow I, Grade 7

Responsible to: n/a

Responsible for: n/a

PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTABILITIES

- To engage in individual and/or collaborative research activity resulting in high-quality publications; and to develop research funding and knowledge exchange income individually or in collaboration with others, as appropriate, depending on the size and scope of the bid.
• To contribute to School teaching activities.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

Research, Scholarship & Enterprise

• Develop research objectives and proposals for joint research.
• Conduct research projects individually and in collaboration with others.
• Analyse and interpret research findings and draw conclusions on the outcomes.
• Produce high-quality research outputs for publication in monographs or recognised high-quality journals, or performance/exhibition, as appropriate, and contribute to the School’s REF submission at acceptable levels of volume and academic excellence.
• Contribute, as feasible, to the preparation of proposals and applications to external bodies, for example for funding purposes.
• Individually or with colleagues, explore opportunities for enterprise activity, knowledge exchange income and/or consultancy, where permissible.
• Build internal contacts and participate in internal networks and relevant external networks in order to form relationships and collaborations.
• Continually update knowledge and understanding in field or specialism, and engage in continuous professional development.

Teaching & Student Support

• Undertake teaching duties, if required (not expected).
• Assist in the assessment of student knowledge and supervision of student projects if required.
• Assist in the development of student research skills, for example as part of a postgraduate supervision team.

Contribution to School & University

• Attend and contribute to relevant School and project meetings.
• Undertake additional duties, as required by the Principal Investigator and/or Head of School.

5. Role-specific duties

(See project description above).

• Become familiar with methodologies currently used to identify and prioritise synergies and trade-offs among the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
• In conjunction with the Principal Investigator and other Collaborators, modify the “matrix approach” to SDG interactions.
• Work with local stakeholders and academics and apply the modified matrix approach in a low or medium income country (in a workshop format).
• Co-author publications on this research, and participate in national/international workshops and conferences.

The Research Fellow will work closely on these tasks with Professor Alcamo and other SSRP Co-I’s.

This Job Description sets out current duties of the post that may vary from time to time without changing the general character of the post or level of responsibility entailed.

6. Person Specification

INDICATIVE PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

• A PhD or Masters.
• Pursuing a line of independent research within a research group.
• Publishing research (either from a recently completed PhD or new original research).
• Other forms of externally recognised professional practice of creative output of a standing equivalent to regular publication of original research.
• Initiating, developing or participating in links between the University and external bodies such as business and industry, the professions, community organisations and policy-makers.
• Evidence of successful engagement in teaching or supervision.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA

• Educated to doctoral level or masters level, or other equivalent qualification, or appropriate level of experience, as appropriate to the discipline (see role-specific criteria below).
• Evidence of engagement in high-quality research activity.
• Excellent presentation skills, with the ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, with students, colleagues and external audiences.
• Ability to work individually on own initiative and without close supervision, and as part of a team.
• Ability to exercise a degree of innovation and creative problem-solving.
• Excellent organisational and administrative skills.
• Ability to prioritise and meet deadlines.
• Excellent IT skills.

ESSENTIAL ROLE-SPECIFIC CRITERIA

• PhD or Masters in an appropriate scientific area (see next two criteria).
• Training in an environmental or sustainability field of science or engineering.
• Some experience in quantitative analysis (modelling, statistics, informatics, applied mathematics, other) including programming.
DESIRABLE CRITERIA

- Emerging track record of high-quality publications in reputable journals and other appropriate media of similar standing.
- Experience of generating research or knowledge exchange income.