

1 Advertisement

Post Title: Research Fellow in nature based solutions for climate, biodiversity and sustainable food systems

School/department: University of Sussex Business School/Science Policy Research Unit

Hours: full time or part time hours considered up to a maximum of 1 FTE

Requests for flexible working options will be considered (subject to business need).

Contract: fixed term until 31/3/2024

Reference: 9294

Salary: Grade 7 - starting at £35,333 to £42,155 per annum depending on experience.

Grade 8 - starting at £43,414 to £51,805 per annum depending on experience

Placed on: 26 July 2022

Closing date: 22 August 2022 Applications must be received by midnight of the closing date.

Expected Interview date: To be confirmed

Expected start date: October 2022 or soon thereafter

The Science Policy Research Unit (SPRU), within the University of Sussex Business School, is seeking to appoint a Research Fellow to contribute to a Defra - BEIS project "[Nature-based Solutions for Climate Change at the Landscape Scale](#)" supported by the Treasury's Shared Outcomes Fund and led by Natural England, Environment Agency, RBG Kew and the Forestry Commission.

The University of Sussex is supporting RBG Kew on an interdisciplinary research stream, led by Prof. Fiona Marshall (Professor of Environment and Development, SPRU), which is assessing the carbon, biodiversity, socio-economic and cultural implications of land use change options for sites in Sussex. The role will involve the following tasks:

- Systemic Literature review and policy analysis relation to (1) Cultural ecosystem services and how they can be valued and recognised in decision making processes. (2) Carbon, biodiversity and agriculture/food system interactions; in the context of Nature based Solutions
- Working with colleagues to develop and use a social-ecological landscape modelling tool
- Organisation of semi-structured interviews and focus group discussions with stakeholders in sites in Sussex
- Analysis of qualitative research and contribution to academic and policy focussed written outputs

For full details and how to apply see our [vacancies page](#)

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

2. The School / Division

The University of Sussex Business School

The University of Sussex Business School was formed in 2009 and comprises the Department of Accounting and Finance, the Department of Strategy and Marketing, the Department of Management, the Department of Economics and the Science Policy Research Unit (SPRU). With a new home in the Jubilee Building, a state-of-the-art academic building at the heart of the campus, the Business School is a vibrant, ambitious and dynamic School with a strong research focus.

Science Policy Research Unit (SPRU)

Founded in 1966, [SPRU](https://www.sussex.ac.uk/business-school/people-and-departments/spru) was one of the first interdisciplinary research centres in the field of science and technology policy and management. Today, with over 60 faculty members, SPRU remains at the forefront of new ideas, problem-orientated research, inspiring teaching, and creative, high impact engagement with decision makers across government, business and civil society. Our research addresses pressing global policy and management agendas, including innovation challenges posed by the digital economy, the future of industrial policy, inclusive economic growth, the politics of scientific expertise, energy policy, security issues, entrepreneurship, and pathways to a more sustainable future. SPRU researchers are driven by a desire to tackle real-world questions, whilst also contributing to a deeper theoretical understanding of how science, technology and innovation are shaping today's world. A 2012 study published in the journal 'Research Policy' ranked SPRU second only to Harvard University in terms of its research impact in innovation studies. With a community of over 140 MSc and doctoral students from all over the world, SPRU is also well known for its high quality, research-led teaching programmes.

This means there are opportunities for career development as a researcher in this environment. With a community of over 140 MSc and doctoral students from all over the world, SPRU is also well known for its high quality, research-led teaching programmes.

Please find further information regarding the school/division at

<https://www.sussex.ac.uk/business-school/>

<https://www.sussex.ac.uk/business-school/people-and-departments/spru>

3. Job Description

Job Description for the post of: Research Fellow in Nature Based Solutions for climate change, biodiversity and sustainable food systems.

Department: Science Policy Research Unit

Section/Unit/School: University of Sussex Business School

Location:

Grade: 7 or 8 depending on experience

Responsible to: Fiona Marshall (Professor of Environment and Development)

Responsible for:

4. Person Specification

Essential criteria for the post are:

- PhD in a relevant field/discipline (for example, ecology, agronomy, environmental science or policy, geography, sustainable development, political ecology)
- Knowledge of a range of literature in the areas of climate, biodiversity and sustainable land use/agricultural policy
- Experience conducting systematic literature reviews and policy analysis
- Experience undertaking qualitative primary research (including semi-structured interviews and participatory methods)
- Experience undertaking interdisciplinary research
- Knowledge or experience of socio-ecological system and/or land use planning, mapping or modelling approaches
- Ability to carry out research in sites across Sussex
- Ability to work collaboratively in designing, implementing, and writing up qualitative research
- Strong analytical capability and evidence of excellent academic writing

Informal enquires can be made with Professor Fiona Marshall (f.marshall@sussex.ac.uk)

CORE JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title:	Research Fellow in Nature Based Solutions for climate change, biodiversity and sustainable food systems.
Grade:	Research Fellow I, Grade 7
School:	University of Sussex Business School, Science Policy Research Unit
Location:	[Location]
Responsible to:	Principal Investigator through to Head of School
Direct reports:	n/a
Key contacts:	Members of research group, members of faculty within the School and University.
Role description:	Research Fellow I is an early career-grade research position. Post-holders will be expected to contribute to the work of the research team, and also to develop their research skills with support from more experienced members of staff.

PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTABILITIES

1. 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.
2. To contribute to School teaching activities.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Research, Scholarship & Enterprise

- 1.1 Develop research objectives and proposals for own or joint research, at acceptable levels, with assistance if required.
- 1.2 Conduct research projects individually and in collaboration with others.
- 1.3 Analyse and interpret research findings and draw conclusions on the outcomes.
- 1.4 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.
- 1.5 Contribute to the preparation of proposals and applications to external bodies, for example for funding purposes.
- 1.6 Individually or with colleagues, explore opportunities for enterprise activity, knowledge exchange income and/or consultancy, where permissible.
- 1.7 Build internal contacts and participate in internal networks and relevant external networks in order to form relationships and collaborations.
- 1.8 Continually update knowledge and understanding in field or specialism, and engage in continuous professional development.

2. Teaching & Student Support

- 2.1 Undertake teaching duties, if required.
- 2.2 Assist in the assessment of student knowledge and supervision of student projects if required.
- 2.3 Assist in the development of student research skills, for example as part of a postgraduate supervision team.

3. Contribution to School & University

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

4. Role-specific duties

- 4.1 Systematic literature review and policy analysis related to:
(1) Cultural ecosystem services and how they can be valued and recognised in decision making processes.

(2) Carbon, biodiversity and agriculture/food system interactions; in the context of Nature based Solutions

4.2 Collaborating with colleagues in the school of engineering and Informatics at the University of Sussex to develop and use a social-ecological landscape modelling tool

4.3 Engaging with external stakeholders (policy, NGO, practitioners) and carry out semi-structured interviews and focus group discussions with stakeholders in sites in Sussex

4.4 Analysis of qualitative research and contribution to research articles

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.

INDICATIVE PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

- A PhD or equivalent scholarly or relevant professional activity
- 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.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA

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

8. Excellent IT skills.

ESSENTIAL ROLE-SPECIFIC CRITERIA

1. PhD in a relevant field/discipline (for example, ecology, agronomy, environmental science or policy, geography, sustainable development, political ecology)
2. Knowledge of a range of literature in the areas of climate, biodiversity and sustainable land use/agricultural policy
3. Experience conducting systematic literature reviews and policy analysis
4. Experience undertaking qualitative primary research (including semi-structured interviews and participatory methods)
5. Experience undertaking interdisciplinary research
6. Knowledge or experience of socio-ecological system and/or land use planning, mapping or modelling approaches
7. Ability to carry out research in sites across Sussex

DESIRABLE CRITERIA

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

CORE JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title:	Research Fellow in Nature Based Solutions for climate change, biodiversity and sustainable food systems.
Grade:	Research Fellow II, Grade 8
School:	University of Sussex Business School, Science Policy Research Unit
Location:	[Location]
Responsible to:	Principal Investigator through to Head of School
Direct reports:	n/a
Key contacts:	Members of research group, members of faculty within the School and University, academics in the field in other institutions.
Role Description:	Research Fellow II is a career-grade research position. Post-holders will be expected to take a senior role within a research team, be able to demonstrate an established research portfolio, and a growing reputation in their field of study. They will also be expected to provide support and guidance to less experienced members of staff.

PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTABILITIES

3. To engage in individual and/or collaborative research activity resulting in high-quality publications; and to contribute to obtaining research funding and knowledge exchange income as appropriate.
4. To contribute to School teaching activities.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

2. Research, Scholarship & Enterprise

- 1.9 Contribute to the development of School research strategy and themes.
- 1.10 Develop research objectives and proposals for own or joint research at acceptable levels.
- 1.11 Conduct research projects individually and/or in collaboration with others.
- 1.12 Assess, interpret and evaluate outcomes of research, and develop ideas for their application.
- 1.13 Produce high-quality research outputs that have impact in the field, 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.
- 1.14 Lead small research projects and/or identified parts of a larger project, including supervising the work of others and managing or monitoring a research budget.
- 1.15 Make presentations at conferences, or exhibit work in other appropriate events of a similar standing and identify ways to disseminate research outputs informally via the internet, the media and other forms of public engagement.
- 1.16 Identify sources of funding and secure or contribute to the process of securing bids.
- 1.17 Identify and secure opportunities for enterprise activity, knowledge exchange income and/or consultancy where permissible.
- 1.18 Actively build internal and external contacts, and play a key role in internal networks and relevant external networks in order to, for example, identify sources of funding, secure student placements, and build relationships for future activities.
- 1.19 Contribute to a relevant national professional body or recognised events.
- 1.20 Continually update knowledge and understanding in field or specialism, and engage in continuous professional development.
- 1.21 Conduct risk assessments, and take responsibility for the health and safety of others, if required.

3. Teaching & Student Support

- 2.4 Contribute to teaching and learning in the School, including delivery of teaching if required.
- 2.5 Supervise postgraduate research students, for example as part of a postgraduate supervisory team.

2.6 Assist in the development of student research skills.

4. Contribution to School & University

3.3 Attend and contribute to relevant School and project meetings.

3.4 Mentor less experienced colleagues, supporting them in developing their research techniques, and advising on personal development.

3.5 Undertake additional duties, as required by the Principal Investigator and/or Head of School.

5. Role-specific duties

4.1 Systematic literature review and policy analysis related to:

(1) Cultural ecosystem services and how they can be valued and recognised in decision making processes.

(2) Carbon, biodiversity and agriculture/food system interactions; in the context of Nature based Solutions

4.2 Collaborating with colleagues in the school of engineering and Informatics at the University of Sussex to develop and use a social-ecological landscape modelling tool

4.3 Engaging with external stakeholders (policy, NGO, practitioners) and carry out semi-structured interviews and focus group discussions with stakeholders in sites in Sussex

4.4 Analysis of qualitative research and contribution to research articles

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.

INDICATIVE PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

- Regular published output of original research at international level (referred journal papers, monographs, book chapters, text-books).
- Other evidence of original research contribution to the field, such as through invited conference contributions, membership of editorial panels etc.
- Evidence of successful co-supervision of doctoral students.
- Evidence of the successful supervision of others within the research group.
- Evidence of contribution to the process of obtaining competitive/peer reviewed research support funding or collaboration in significant research projects with institutions of equivalent standing.
- Involvement in the creation, transfer and use of the results of research through a range of knowledge exchange activities.
- Success in transferring research results to commercial, professional, public sector or other practical use.
- Evidence of successful engagement in teaching or supervision.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA

9. Normally educated to doctoral level, or other equivalent qualification, or appropriate level of experience, as appropriate to the discipline (see role-specific criteria below).
10. Evidence of significant independent contribution to the design and execution of research.
11. An emerging track record of publications in reputable journals and other appropriate media of similar standing.
12. Excellent presentation skills, with the ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, with students, colleagues and external audiences.
13. Ability to work individually on own initiative and without close supervision, and as part of a team.
14. Ability to exercise a degree of innovation and creative problem-solving.
15. Excellent organisational and administrative skills.
16. Ability to prioritise and meet deadlines.
17. Excellent IT skills.

ESSENTIAL ROLE-SPECIFIC CRITERIA

8. PhD in a relevant field/discipline (for example, ecology, agronomy, environmental science or policy, geography, sustainable development, political ecology)
9. Knowledge of a range of literature in the areas of climate, biodiversity and sustainable land use/agricultural policy
10. Experience conducting systematic literature reviews and policy analysis
11. Experience undertaking qualitative primary research (including semi-structured interviews and participatory methods)
12. Experience undertaking interdisciplinary research
13. Knowledge or experience of socio-ecological system and/or land use planning, mapping or modelling approaches
14. Ability to carry out research in sites across Sussex

DESIRABLE CRITERIA

1. Experience of generating research or knowledge exchange income.
2. Experience of supervising postgraduate research students.