1 Advertisement

Post Title: Research Assistant in Conditions for Project Success  
School/department: University of Sussex Business School, Science Policy Research Unit (SPRU)  
Hours: Full time for 7 months or part time job share applications will be considered  
(Requests for flexible working options will be considered, subject to business need).  
Contract: Fixed term until 31 January 2021  
Reference: 3776  
Salary: Starting at £30,046 to £33,797 per annum, pro rata if part time.  
Placed on: 09 June 2020  
Closing date: 25 June 2020. Applications must be received by midnight of the closing date.  
Expected Interview date: 3 July 2020  
Expected start date: July 2020 or asap

The Science Policy Research Unit (SPRU) at the University of Sussex Business School is seeking to appoint a Research Assistant to join the Association of Project Management funded project on “Dynamic Conditions for Project Success”.

The project aims to engage with project professionals to examine conditions for project success, by focusing on the following high-level guiding question: How can project managers and project organisations better implement extant and novel success factors in increasingly complex contexts? The Research Assistant will work closely with the Principal Investigator David Eggleton to identify and understand these success factors.

The Research Assistant will undertake qualitative data collection and subsequent data analysis using in-depth interviews. They will also undertake primary quantitative survey research and interpret the findings, and contribute to co-authored reports, journal articles, conference presentations, blog posts and working papers as appropriate.

Essential criteria for the post include the following:
- Ability to work collaboratively in implementing, and writing up qualitative and quantitative research
- Ability to design, implement, and analyse primary survey research
- Experience of collecting and analysing primary interview data
- Knowledge of project management domain

Please contact Dr David Eggleton, D.Eggleton@sussex.ac.uk for informal enquiries.

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, Department and the Project

University of Sussex Business School
The University of Sussex Business School is a unique research-focused interdisciplinary school, which takes a strong policy-directed view on business practices while also developing the underlying core disciplines. It includes 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).
As a dynamic, research-orientated and interdisciplinary School, we produce cutting-edge research that addresses real-world issues, pressing global policy agendas and business practices, whilst also being committed to developing the underlying core disciplines.

The School is committed to the University’s vision to understand and help address the grand issues of our time, by challenging conventional thinking and discourse, being creative and open in our approach and innovative in our methods in order to produce world-class research with impact.

**Science Policy Research Unit (SPRU)**

Founded in 1966 by Christopher Freeman, SPRU was one of the first interdisciplinary research centres in the field of science and technology policy. Today, with over 70 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 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, 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 understanding of how science, technology and innovation is shaping today’s world. 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.

**The Project**

The Association of Project Management funded project “Dynamic Conditions for Project Success” brings together the Science Policy Research Unit and the University of Southampton Business School to explore (i) the reasons for limited application of good and best project practice with extant success factors which therefore augments the likelihood of project failure, (ii) novel factors which may contribute to enhance project excellence in increasingly complex contexts, and (iii) case illustrations outlining a range of projects where conditions for success have/can be implemented towards enhancing project excellence.

3. **Job Description**

Job Description for the post of: Research Assistant in Conditions for Project Success

**Department:** Science Policy Research Unit

**Section/Unit/School:** University of Sussex Business School

**Location:** Jubilee Building

**Grade:** 6

**Responsible to:** The Principal Investigator David Eggleton through to Head of School

**Responsible for:** n/a
PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTABILITIES

1. To observe and assist with individual and/or collaborative research activity and contribute to the production of research outputs for publications.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Research, Scholarship & Enterprise

1.1 With support from the Principal Investigator, develop research objectives and contribute to the planning of the research project

1.2 Conduct research activity under supervision of the Principal Investigator, and in collaboration with others.

1.3 Assist with the analysis and interpretation of research findings and contribute to discussions on conclusions and outcomes.

1.4 Contribute to the writing of reports and other dissemination activities under the supervision of experienced researchers.

1.5 Contribute to the preparation of research ethics and data management strategies, under guidance from the Principal Investigator to ensure compliance with ethical approval and data protection legislation.

1.6 Present information on research progress and outcomes to relevant bodies under the supervision of the Principal Investigator.

1.7 Plan own day-to-day research activity within the framework of the agreed programme.

1.8 Learn about the publication process and contribute to research outputs for publication in reports, monographs or recognised high-quality journals as appropriate.

1.9 Continually update knowledge and understanding in field or specialism, and engage in professional development.

2. Teaching & Student Support

2.1 Assist in the supervision of student projects and provide guidance to those assisting in the research.

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 Undertake primary data collection, and subsequent data analysis, in the UK.

4.2 Contribute to conceptual development, in collaboration with the Principle Investigator and research team.

4.3 Co-author publications on this research.

4.4 Participate in national/international workshops and conferences.

4.5 Travel regularly around the UK for interviews and workshops, subject to Covid-19 restrictions.

4.6 Support the organisation of relevant workshops and other events.

The Research Assistant will work closely on these tasks with Dr David Eggleton.

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**

- Under the supervision of the Principal Investigator, conduct research to assist with project aims, with emphasis on training.

- Undertake research by preparing, setting up, conducting and recording the outcomes.

- Manage and analyse data, and prepare written reports and summaries.

- Maintain and store project files and equipment as per health and safety and data regulations.

- As part of career development, contribute to the preparation of journal articles and reports based on the research with support from the Principal Investigator.

**PERSON SPECIFICATION**

**ESSENTIAL CRITERIA**

1. Normally educated to degree level, or other equivalent qualification, or relevant level of experience, as appropriate to the discipline (see role-specific criteria below).

2. Good presentation skills, with the ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, with colleagues and external audiences.

3. Ability to work independently (under supervision), and as part of a team.
4. Ability to exercise a degree of innovation and creative problem-solving.
5. Excellent organisational and administrative skills.
6. Ability to prioritise and meet deadlines.
7. Excellent IT skills.
8. Ability to follow guidance of team leaders.

**ESSENTIAL ROLE-SPECIFIC CRITERIA**

1. Ability to work collaboratively in implementing, and writing up qualitative and quantitative research
2. Ability to design, implement, and analyse primary survey research
3. Knowledge of project management domain
4. Experience of collecting and analysing primary interview data
5. Excellent writing skills
6. Willingness to travel in the UK (subject to any travel restrictions that may be in place due to Covid-19)

**DESIRABLE CRITERIA**

1. Working towards a PhD in related research area (for example – Management, Technology and Innovation Management, etc.)