1 Advertisement

Post Title: Research Assistant in Transforming Food Systems

School/department: University of Sussex Business School, Management Department

Hours: Part time hours up to a maximum of 7.3 hours per week.-Requests for flexible working options will be considered (subject to business need).

Contract: fixed term for 1 years

Reference: 9677

Salary: starting at £31,411 to £35,333 per annum, pro rata if part time.

Placed on: 05 September 2022

Closing date: 20 September 2022. Applications must be received by midnight of the closing date.

Expected Interview date: TBC

Expected start date: September 2022 or soon thereafter

The University of Sussex Business School are seeking to appoint a Research Fellow in Transforming Food Systems to work with Dr Elaine Swan and Dr Katerina Psarikidou on a 5-year project funded by the UKRI ‘Transforming Food Systems’ Strategic Priorities fund. The project builds on a strong collaboration between the Universities of Reading, Sussex, Plymouth, Cranfield and Kent, plus numerous partners from community and civil society organisations, the food sector and the policy world.

Working closely with the Women’s Environmental Network (Tower Hamlets, London) and the Brighton and Hove Food Partnership (East Sussex), the project led by Sussex is titled “Co-production of healthy, sustainable food systems for disadvantaged communities”. Based on the principles of research co-production, the project is envisioned to provide citizens of socio-culturally diverse communities with choice and agency over the food they consume, the chains through which they access their food, and the policy frameworks that are needed to support the vision of a more inclusive and socio-environmentally just agrifood system for all.

The Research Assistant will

· undertake directed fieldwork and other research activities

· help with the research design, analysis, and writing

· support the Sussex (and national research team) to meet project deliverables

· support communications and administration as needed

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

For full details and how to apply see our [vacancies page](#)
2. The School / Division

**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.

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.

**The Project**

“Co-production of healthy, sustainable food systems for disadvantaged communities” is a 5-year project funded by the UKRI ‘Transforming Food Systems’ Strategic Priorities fund. The project builds on a strong collaboration between the Universities of Reading, Sussex, Plymouth, Cranfield and Kent, plus numerous partners from community and civil society organisations, the food sector and the policy world.

Based on the principles of research co-production, the project is envisioned to provide citizens of socio-culturally diverse communities with choice and agency over the food they consume, the chains through which they access their food, and the policy frameworks that are needed to support the vision of a more inclusive and socio-environmentally just agrifood system for all.
## CORE JOB DESCRIPTION

### Job Title:
Research Assistant in Transforming Food Systems

### Grade:
Research Assistant, Grade 6

### School:
Business School

### Location:
Jubilee Building

### Responsible to:
Principal Investigator

### Direct reports:
n/a

### Key contacts:
Members of research group, members of faculty within the School and University.

### Role description:
Research Assistant is a pre-Doctoral 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 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 monographs or recognised high-quality journals, or performance/exhibition, 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

2.1 Attend and contribute to relevant School and project meetings.

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

4. Role-specific duties

1. To undertake directed fieldwork and other research activities

2. To help with the research design, analysis, and writing
3. To support the Sussex (and national research team) to meet project deliverables

4. To support communications and administration as needed

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 experiments/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 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 by the Principal Investigator), 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.

8. Excellent IT skills.

9. Ability to follow guidance of team leaders.
ESSENTIAL ROLE-SPECIFIC CRITERIA

1. A nearly completed PhD or relevant masters in social science and methods from a feminist/postcolonial background and some experience or interest in food studies

2. Good knowledge of and methods training and experience in qualitative methodologies

3. Evidence of the ability to communicate effectively to different audiences across various media.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA

1. Experience of conducting research experiments.