

Job Title: Research Synthesis Specialist (Research Associate)

Grade: 7

Salary: £40,704 to £44,352 per annum due to external funding restrictions

Department: School of Chemical, Earth and Environmental Sciences (CEES)

Hours/Contract: Full-time or job share, fixed term contract from 13 November 2026 to 28 February 2027

Reference: 13914

Role Purpose

This post will work closely with the LUNZ Hub consortium by designing, conducting and writing up a systematic synthesis of the LUNZ Programme outputs (including the Hub and the research projects) and outline their relevance to emerging land use policy documents in the devolved administrations of the four nations of the UK and central government. The purpose is to lead the production of a co-authored report and/or journal manuscript together with senior experts in this field.

Design a credible research synthesis approach, obtain materials, and produce draft written material, as well as managing the process of other authors contributing to the report and/or journal publication.

Main Duties and Responsibilities

Research

- To design a research synthesis approach for the LUNZ Programme (Hub and research projects) that is grounded in a theoretical framework
- To adopt a systems thinking approach to understanding land use issues across the four nations of the UK.
- To obtain necessary source materials and critically review them in order to write a synthesis report and/or a journal paper manuscript, together with other authors from the LUNZ Programme.
- To contribute to upcoming LUNZ meetings in the UK, online and in person if required.
- To create materials and news stories for the web site and newsletters if appropriate.

Professional Development

- To continuously engage in professional development, including subject knowledge and expertise as well as interpersonal skills.
- To attend mandatory training courses as required by the annual Personal Development Discussion.

Impact and Knowledge Exchange

- Participate in workshops and conferences to support the dissemination of research findings.

Leadership and Citizenship

- To work effectively as a member of the project team
- To contribute to the mentorship of other members of the team (students and interns) where needed
- To engage in events and activities within the Institute for Environmental Futures and the University of Leicester more widely beyond the strict project work as appropriate





Internal and External Relationships

- Reporting to the LUNZ Hub co-leads as well as the Head of School.
- Regular attendance at team meetings.
- Working with other researchers.
- Working with stakeholders and partners on the co-creation of knowledge and co-delivery of outcomes.

Planning and Organising

- With guidance from the Principal Investigator, or equivalent, plan own work and prioritise research and project/laboratory activities on a regular basis, including co-ordinating resources and maintenance of samples and equipment.
- The post-holder will be required to effectively manage their time to deliver on the priorities of the research programme with the support of their line manager.
- Attend suitable training courses or equivalent and be proactive in terms of continued professional development.

Qualifications, Knowledge and Experience

Essential

- A completed or near-completed PhD in a relevant discipline or a Masters degree with equivalent professional experience*
- Experience with writing high-quality reports and/or journal paper manuscripts as lead author*
- Knowledge of land uses in the four nations of the UK*

Desirable

- Specialist knowledge of land use policy issues in the UK
- Specialist knowledge of environmental sustainability and climate change

Skills, Abilities and Competencies

Essential

- Excellent ability to write reports, or academic publications
- Proven ability to solve problems
- Critical thinking skills
- Excellent communication skills
- Ability to work effectively as part of a team across different organisation

*Criteria to be used in shortlisting candidates for interview

Reason for Fixed Term Contract

The reason for the fixed term contract is stated in section 1.9 in the summary of contractual terms in your contract of employment.





Criminal Declaration

If you become an employee, you must inform your manager immediately, in writing, if you are the subject of any current or future police investigations/legal proceedings, which could result in a criminal offence, conviction, caution, bind-over or charges, or warnings.

Supporting University Activities

As a University of Leicester citizen, you are encouraged to support key university activities such as clearing, graduation ceremonies, student registration and recruitment open days. We encourage all staff as citizens to work flexibly across the University if required. If supporting these activities is likely to affect your workload, please speak to your line manager in the first instance

University Values

Inclusive - We are diverse in our makeup and united in ambition. Our diversity is our strength and makes our community stronger.

Inspiring - We are passionate about inspiring individuals to succeed and realise their ambitions. We challenge our community to think differently, to get involved, and to constantly embrace new ideas.

Impactful - As Citizens of Change we will generate new ideas which deliver impact and empower our community

Freedom of Speech

The University is committed to upholding freedom of speech and academic freedom within the law throughout our recruitment processes. We ensure that all candidates are considered based on merit and suitability for the role, without regard to their lawful viewpoints or the expression of challenging or controversial ideas. Our recruitment policies and practices are designed to protect applicants from discrimination or adverse treatment on the basis of their opinions, and to foster an environment where open debate and diverse perspectives are valued as essential to our academic mission.

Equity and Diversity

We believe that equity, diversity and inclusion is integral to a successful modern workplace. By developing and implementing policies and systems that challenge stereotypes across all aspects of our work, we have a culture that recognises and values the diverse contributions of our staff which benefits everyone. Our strong values of inclusivity and equality support our efforts to attract a diverse range of high quality staff and students, and identify our University as a progressive and innovative workplace that mainstreams equality, diversity and inclusion.

