

**Job Description: Research Officer**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **College/School:** | Faculty of Science and Engineering |
| **Job Title:** | Research Officer |
| **Department/Subject:** | *Geography* |
| **Salary:** | *Grade 8: £39,335 to £45,413 per annum pro rata* |
| **Hours of work:** | 50% - 2.5 Days per week |
| **Contract:** | This is a fixed term position, for six months. However, under discussion, there could be the option to compress delivery, full time, over 3 months, or at a lower number of days per week, over 10 months. |
| **Location:** | This position will be based at the Singleton Campus in the Cosmos outreach centre (Margam Building) |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Introduction** | To deliver its sustainable top 30 ambition Swansea University needs a workforce with the differentiated skills necessary to ensure that it can deliver excellence in research, teaching, learning, and the wider student experience, and to be a powerhouse for the regional economy and internationally. |
| **Background information** | Applicants are invited to apply for the position of Research Officer within the Faculty of Science and Engineering, to work for the S4 outreach project (Swansea University Science For Schools Scheme <https://s4science.co.uk/>).  The Research Officer will independently deliver a series of research reports and papers that form the dissemination deliverables of a Longitudinal Cohort Evaluation (LCE) of participants in a campus-based [STEM outreach programme](https://s4science.co.uk/). The LCE has been delivered and the drafts of reports and papers completed. The Research Officer will complete full analysis of the LCE and publish the reports and papers.  Analysis will require expert use of SPSS and NVivo. A PhD in Human Geography or a relevant social science discipline is desirable, and experience of research in widening access to education and STEM inclusivity is needed.  We are seeking a suitably qualified human geography post-doctoral researcher to deliver a short-term piece of work analysing evaluation data from the S4 programme. The LCE was collected from secondary school students (from areas of social and economic disadvantage in South Wales) following their participation in a university campus science intervention programme. S4 introduced students to spaces of science and higher education and evaluated the impact this had on their ideas about science, future careers, entrance into higher education and aspirations. Our delivery was under a broad ‘Science Capital’ theoretical lens.  The Research Officer will ensure the strategic aims of the project are realised via a specific set of deliverables. This is a ‘*sprint project’* with regular, discrete deliverables over a short period of time. The Research Officer will work closely with the Lead Academics to implement the shared project vision. |
| **Main Purpose of Post** | The Research Officer will independently deliver a series of research reports and papers that form the dissemination deliverables of a Longitudinal Cohort Evaluation (LCE) of participants in a campus-based [STEM outreach programme](https://s4science.co.uk/). The LCE has been delivered and the drafts of reports and papers completed. The Research Officer will complete full analysis of the LCE and publish the reports and papers. Analysis will require expert use of SPSS and NVivo. Pro-actively contributing to and conducting research, including analysing data and presenting results, exhibiting a degree of independence in terms of specifying the focus and direction of the research.   1. Preparing reports and papers describing the results of the LCE research, both confidential and for publication. The appointee is expected to be actively engaged in the writing and publishing of research papers, particularly those intended for publication in refereed (e.g. international) journals as a normal part of their role. 2. The appointee is expected to be self-motivated, and able to apply and use their initiative, to determine suitable ways to tackle challenges, seeking guidance when needed. 3. The appointee is expected to use creativity to analyse and interpret research data and draw conclusions on the outcomes. 4. The appointee is expected to iinteract positively and professionally with other collaborators and partners in the University and beyond both in industry/government and academia. 5. The appointee is expected to contribute pro-actively to the development of external funding applications to support their own work, that of others and the Faculty and the Institution in general. The appointee will be expected as a normal part of their work to be actively engaged in writing, or contributing to writing such applications. 6. The appointee is expected to contribute to Faculty organisational matters in order to help it run smoothly and to help raise its external research profile. 7. The appointee is expected to keep informed of developments in the subject field in both technical and specific terms and the wider subject area and the implication for academia. 8. When requested, the appointee is expected to act as a representative or member of committees, using the opportunity to extend their own professional experience. 9. The appointee is expected to demonstrate and evidence own professional development, identifying development needs with reference to the Vitae Researcher Development Framework particularly with regard to probation, performance reviews, and participation in training events. 10. The appointee is expected to maintain and enhance links with the professional institutions and other related bodies. 11. The appointee is expected to observe best-practice protocols in maintenance and retention of research records as indicated by HEI and Research Councils records management guidance.  This includes ensuring project log-book records are deposited with the University/Principal Investigator on completion of the work |
| **General Duties** | 1. To fully engage with the University’s Performance Enabling and Welsh language policies 2. To promote equality and diversity in working practices and to maintain positive working relationships. 3. To lead on the continual improvement of health and safety performance through a good understanding of the risk profile and the development of a positive health and safety culture. 4. To conduct the job role and all activities in accordance with safety, health and sustainability policies and management systems, in order to reduce risks and impacts arising from the work activity. 5. Any other duties as directed by the Head of College / Department or their nominated representative expected within the grade definition. 6. To ensure that risk management is an integral part of any decision-making process, by ensuring compliance with the University’s Risk Management Policy. |
| **Person Specification** | **Essential Criteria**   * A postgraduate qualification in in a suitable social science or human geography topic or equivalent * Evidence of active engagement and contribution to writing and publishing research papers for refereed journals. * Evidence of the capacity for active engagement in designing research and writing, or contributing to writing, applications for external research funding. * Ability to demonstrate significant independence of focus and direction in research – determining ’what, why, when and with whom' is needed to progress work. * A commitment to continuous professional development   **Desirable Criteria:**   * A PhD in in a suitable social science or human geography topic or equivalent * Ability to communicate in Welsh. * Willingness to travel to meet clients and other stakeholders at different locations within Wales. |
| **Additional Information** | Informal enquiries: to Professor Mary Gagen – [m.h.gagen@swansea.ac.uk](mailto:m.h.gagen@swansea.ac.uk), Dr Will Bryan – [w.a.bryan@swansea.ac.uk](mailto:w.a.bryan@swansea.ac.uk) or Dr Elizabeth A Gagen (Aberystwyth University) - [elg26@aber.ac.uk](mailto:elg26@aber.ac.uk) |

  