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| Last updated: | <date> |

**JOB DESCRIPTION**

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| Post title: | **Senior Research Fellow in Food Aid and Food Systems** | | |
| Standard Occupation Code: (UKVI SOC CODE) | 2119 - Natural and social science professional | | |
| School/Department: | SOGES | | |
| Faculty: | FELS | | |
| Career Pathway: | Education, Research and Enterprise (ERE) | Level: | 5 |
| \*ERE category: | Research pathway | | |
| Posts responsible to: | Dianna Smith | | |
| Posts responsible for: | n/a | | |
| Post base: | Office-based | | |

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| Job purpose |
| To undertake research as part of the UKRI-funded Food Aid Inequality Rectified (FAIR-food) project based at the School of Geography and Environmental Science (Prof. Dianna Smith and colleagues). The overall aim is to support transformation in the food aid system, particularly food pantries in Southampton, the New Forest, and the Isle of Wight. Collaborating with local government, third-sector partners, and communities, the project seeks to implement sustainable adaptations in food aid distribution that can be scaled elsewhere.    A key objective is the development of an online platform, i.e., a "supply chain control tower", that enhances coordination between food suppliers and aid providers, optimizing supply chain efficiency while prioritizing healthier food in pantries. Additionally, the project will engage with communities to identify preferred improvements in food pantries and design smaller, deployable interventions. Using operations research and systems modelling techniques, we will evaluate the potential long-term health impacts of both large-scale systemic changes and localized interventions.    The postholder will contribute to three core areas: conducting data collection and analysis in collaboration with community researchers; engaging with food suppliers and aid providers to co-develop the platform for more efficient food aid distribution; and employing systems dynamics modelling to estimate the expected impacts of these interventions. The role will require expertise in supply chain modelling, operations research, and/or statistics, with a focus on optimizing food distribution and forecasting outcomes using quantitative methods. Early responsibilities will emphasize food supply chain mapping, while the final stages will involve advanced simulations. |

| Key accountabilities/primary responsibilities | | % Time |
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|  | Plan and deliver high quality research reflecting the project aims, project managing the research activity, sustaining a personal research plan. | 50% |
|  | Establish a national reputation by sustaining the regular dissemination of findings through leading peer-reviewed publications, presenting results at conferences, or exhibiting work at other appropriate events. | 15 % |
|  | Plan and develop innovative research proposals and projects. | 5 % |
|  | Develop and engage in research methodologies that add to the knowledge/understanding of social inequalities, systems science. | 10 % |
|  | Carry out administrative tasks associated with specified research funding, for example completing ethics applications and risk assessment of research activities, organisation of project meetings and documentation. Implementation of procedures required to ensure accurate and timely formal reporting and financial control. | 5 % |
|  | Provide expert advice in own subject area to other staff and students. | 5 % |
|  | To allocate 10 days a year (pro rata if part-time) to undertake training and continuing professional development (CPD), develop research identity and leadership skills in line with the Researcher Development Concordat. | 5% |
|  | Any other duties as allocated by the line manager following consultation with the post holder. | 5 % |

| Internal and external relationships |
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| **Internal:** the post-holder will work under the day-to-day direction of Prof Dianna Smith, as well as other members of the research team including Prof Behzad Hezarkhani and Prof Craig Hutton. The post-holder will also work with a number of other staff members as part of the work including other postdoctoral staff and an administrator.  **External:** the post-holder will be expected to liaise with other non-academic partners on this project, as appropriate. They will also be expected to engage with collaborators and colleagues in other work areas and institutions. This will include working with civic organisations (city councils) and leaders of organisations interested in food security. |

| Special Requirements |
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| To be available to participate in fieldwork as required.  To be able to attend national and international conferences for the purpose of disseminating research results.  There may be some evening and weekend working.  Some local travel is associated with the role, requiring a full driving licence.  Applications will be considered from candidates who are working towards or nearing completion of a relevant PhD qualification.  The title of Senior Research Fellow will be applied upon completion of PhD.  Prior to the qualification being awarded the title of Senior Research Assistant will be given. |

**PERSON SPECIFICATION**

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| Criteria | Essential | Desirable | How to be assessed |
| Qualifications, knowledge and experience | PhD or equivalent professional qualifications and experience in social sciences, such as geography, psychology, operations research or in public health.  Growing and consistent national reputation in social science research related to inequality.  Track record of published research  Significant experience within advanced quantitative methods. | PhD in social science, operations research, or public health.  Knowledge in one or more of social and health inequalities, public health, systems science.  Relevant national committee memberships  Experience of systems modelling, advanced quantitative methods and working with stakeholders.  Skilled in the use of R, Python, or other data analysis programs.  Experience using GIS.  Experience using systems dynamics modelling software such as STELLA or VENSIM.  Collaboration with local government and/or third sector organisations.  Demonstrate commitment to maintaining professional knowledge and awareness through continuing personal and professional development  Understanding of the Concordats relevant to research | Application, CV and Interview |
| Expected Behaviours | Able to apply and actively promote equality, diversity and inclusion principles to the responsibilities of the role.  Demonstrate the Southampton Behaviours (Personal Leadership, Developing Others, Working Together, Delivering Quality, Driving Sustainability) and work with colleagues to embed them as a way of working within the team. |  | Application, CV and Interview |
| Planning and organising | Proven ability to organise a range of high-quality research activities to deadline and quality standards, ensuring plans complement broader research strategy. | Able to build a research team | Application, CV and Interview |
| Problem solving and initiative | Able to identify broad trends to assess deep-rooted and complex issues  Able to apply originality in modifying existing approaches to solve problems |  | Application, CV and Interview |
| Management and teamwork | Able to undertake coordinating role involving multiple members of staff and external actors in School/Department/university  Work effectively in a team, understanding the strengths and weaknesses of others to help teamwork development |  | Application, CV and Interview |
| Communicating and influencing | Communicate new and complex information effectively, both verbally and in writing, engaging the interest and enthusiasm of the target audience  Track record of presenting research results at group meetings and conferences  Able to persuade and influence at all levels in order to foster and maintain relationships  Able to resolve tensions/difficulties as they arise  Able to provide expert guidance to colleagues in own team, other work areas and institutions to develop understanding and resolve complex problems |  | Application, CV and Interview |
| Other skills and behaviours | Compliance relevant Health & Safety issues  Positive attitude to colleagues and students |  | Application, CV and Interview |
| Special requirements | Able to attend national and international conferences to present research results.  Occasional requirement to travel to other regions for the work. There may be a need to stay overnight or work into the evening on rare occasions. |  | Application, CV and Interview |
|  |  | Valid full driving licence. |  |

**JOB HAZARD ANALYSIS**

**Is this an office-based post?**

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| Yes | If this post is an office-based job with routine office hazards (eg: use of VDU), no further information needs to be supplied. Do not complete the section below. |
| No | If this post is not office-based or has some hazards other than routine office (eg: more than use of VDU) please complete the analysis below.  Hiring managers are asked to complete this section as accurately as possible to ensure the safety of the post-holder. |

## - HR will send a full PEHQ to all applicants for this position. Please note, if full health clearance is required for a role, this will apply to all individuals, including existing members of staff.

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| **ENVIRONMENTAL EXPOSURES** | **Occasionally**  (<30% of time) | **Frequently**  (30-60% of time) | **Constantly**  (> 60% of time) |
| Outside work |  |  |  |
| Extremes of temperature (eg: fridge/ furnace) |  |  |  |
| ## Potential for exposure to body fluids |  |  |  |
| ## Noise (greater than 80 dba - 8 hrs twa) |  |  |  |
| ## Exposure to hazardous substances (eg: solvents, liquids, dust, fumes, biohazards). Specify below: |  |  |  |
| Frequent hand washing |  |  |  |
| Ionising radiation |  |  |  |
| **EQUIPMENT/TOOLS/MACHINES USED** | | | |
| ## Food handling |  |  |  |
| ## Driving university vehicles(eg: car/van/LGV/PCV) |  |  |  |
| ## Use of latex gloves (prohibited unless specific clinical necessity) |  |  |  |
| ## Vibrating tools (eg: strimmers, hammer drill, lawnmowers) |  |  |  |
| **PHYSICAL ABILITIES** | | | |
| Load manual handling |  |  |  |
| Repetitive crouching/kneeling/stooping |  |  |  |
| Repetitive pulling/pushing |  |  |  |
| Repetitive lifting |  |  |  |
| Standing for prolonged periods |  |  |  |
| Repetitive climbing (ie: steps, stools, ladders, stairs) |  |  |  |
| Fine motor grips (eg: pipetting) |  |  |  |
| Gross motor grips |  |  |  |
| Repetitive reaching below shoulder height |  |  |  |
| Repetitive reaching at shoulder height |  |  |  |
| Repetitive reaching above shoulder height |  |  |  |
| **PSYCHOSOCIAL ISSUES** | | | |
| Face to face contact with public |  |  |  |
| Lone working |  |  |  |
| ## Shift work/night work/on call duties |  |  |  |