



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Fellow in Urban Ecology, School of Earth and Environment, Faculty of Environment



Salary: Grade 7 (£33,199 – £39,609 p.a.)

Reference: ENVEE1345

Closing date: 16 August 2019

Fixed term for 7 months (External funding)

This post is open to job share and flexible working

Research Fellow in Urban Ecology

School of Earth and Environment, Faculty of Environment

Are you an ambitious researcher looking for your next challenge? Do you have a background in urban ecology? Do you want to further your career in one of the UK's leading research intensive Universities?

As cities continue to expand, urban ecosystems increasingly have to be managed for the benefit of both people and biodiversity. However, cities are evolving rapidly, often as a result of technological innovation alongside societal change. Understanding ecological responses to these rapid transitions is an emerging research field.

As a Research Fellow in Urban Ecology, you will join the '[Self-Repairing Cities](#)' research project, funded by the [Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council \(EPSRC\)](#). By developing robots that monitor and repair built infrastructure, Self-Repairing Cities aims to promote their widespread use. Such technological innovation will transform human society and the natural environment. For instance, less traffic and better maintained infrastructure could lead to lower levels of pollution (air, noise, light, water, which negatively affect biodiversity and ecosystem functioning). On the other hand, novel technologies may introduce new, unknown threats to biodiversity.

Understanding how urban ecosystems will change in response to technological innovation is a novel and exciting field. To tackle this research area, you will work closely with engineers and economists to design and implement a programme of empirical data collection to determine how the impacts of urbanisation and pollution on ecosystems, habitats and species might change as we enter a robotic age. The research will entail landscape/spatial ecology in combination with householder surveys.

With a PhD (or be close to completion, i.e. the initial thesis needs to have been handed in before the post starts) in ecology, biodiversity conservation, environmental science or an allied subject, you may also have experience of urban ecology, particularly pertaining to pollinators. You will have knowledge and understanding of data analytical approaches for ecological and questionnaire based data. You will have a track record of publishing work in the peer reviewed literature using data from ecological and social science disciplines. You will have excellent written and verbal communication skills,



as well as the ability to work with people from of other disciplines and non-academic partners.

What does the role entail?

As Research Fellow your main duties will include:

- Being responsible for ensuring the sections of the Self Repairing Cities research project related to ecological and environmental impacts are delivered to help ensure the overall project is successfully completed;
- Generating and pursuing original research ideas appropriate to the project;
- Developing research objectives and contributing to setting the direction of the research project and team;
- Communicating or presenting research results through publication or other recognised forms of output;
- Evaluating methods and techniques used and results obtained by other researchers and to relate such evaluations appropriately to your own work;
- Preparing papers for publication in leading international journals;
- Working both independently and also as part of a larger team of researchers, engaging in knowledge-transfer activities where appropriate and feasible;
- Maintaining your own continuing professional development;
- Contributing to the research culture of the School.

These duties provide a framework for the role and should not be regarded as a definitive list. Other reasonable duties may be required consistent with the grade of the post.

What will you bring to the role?

As Research Fellow you will have:

- A PhD (or be close to completion, i.e. the initial thesis needs to have been handed in before the post starts) in ecology, biodiversity, environmental science or a closely allied subject;
- Knowledge and understanding of appropriate data analytical approaches for both ecological and questionnaire based data;
- A track record of publications in the peer-reviewed journal literature using data from ecological and social science disciplines;
- Demonstrable experience of conducting research;



- Excellent time management and planning skills, with the ability to manage competing demands to meet tight deadlines and to work effectively under pressure;
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills, including giving presentations and engaging effectively with a wide range of stakeholders;
- A proven ability to work well both individually and in a team;
- A strong commitment to your own continuous professional development.

You may also have:

- A background in urban ecology, spatial or landscape ecology;
- Familiarity with evidence review techniques;
- Experience working as part of an interdisciplinary project.

How to apply

You can apply for this role online; more guidance can be found on our [How to Apply](#) information page. Applications should be submitted by 23.59 (UK time) on the 11 July 2019.

Contact information

To explore the post further or for any queries you may have, please contact:

[Dr Martin Dallimer](#), Associate Professor in Environmental Change

Tel: +44 (0)113 343 3036

Email: m.dallimer@leeds.ac.uk



Additional information

Find out more about the [Faculty](#) and our [School](#).

Find out more about our [Research and associated facilities](#).

Working at Leeds

You can find out more about our generous benefits package and more about what it is like to work at the University and live in the Leeds area on our [Working at Leeds](#) information page.

Candidates with disabilities

Information for candidates with disabilities, impairments or health conditions, including requesting alternative formats, can be found on our [Accessibility](#) information page or by getting in touch with us at disclosure@leeds.ac.uk.

Criminal record information

Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974

A criminal record check is not required for this position. However, all applicants will be required to declare if they have any 'unspent' criminal offences, including those pending.

Any offer of appointment will be in accordance with our [Criminal Records policy](#). You can find out more about required checks and declarations in our [Criminal Records information](#).

