



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Fellow in Architecture,
Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences



Salary: Grade 7 (£38,205 – £45,585 p.a.)

Reference: EPSCV1151

Closing date: Tuesday 01 October 2024

Fixed term until 31 July 2025

We are open to discussing flexible working arrangements

Research Fellow in Architecture, School of Civil Engineering.

Are you an ambitious researcher looking for your next challenge? Do you want to further your career in one of the UK's leading research-intensive Universities? Do you want to work on a research project alongside leading academics in Architecture and Urbanism?

University of Leeds Architecture and Urbanism Research Group (AURG) supports interdisciplinary research. It acts as a platform for tackling global societal challenges by working closely with communities, local authorities, NGOs, policymakers, businesses, and the public. The 'Designing Accessible and Inclusive Public Play Spaces' funded project aims to assess, improve, and protect children's opportunities for play, and aims for Leeds to be the first city in England to commit to delivering an action plan designed to optimise play opportunities for children and young people across the city. The project contributes to 'Best City's Ambitions' to build a healthier, fairer, greener Leeds, making it a proposal that is relevant and has the potential to make a real difference in our community. While most guidelines focus only on designing for children, well-planned spaces could support play and have the potential for multiple benefits across generations.

We seek a Research Fellow with experience undertaking evidence-based research and evaluating policy and urban design practices. Good experience working with city councils and knowledge of local and national play space practices, policies, and guidelines will be preferable.

The candidate will conduct a thorough literature review and policy analysis, applying qualitative research methods for developing an evidence-based policy brief, 'Building Inclusive Play Spaces in Leeds'. They will also provide administrative support for workshop organisation, editorial assistance with the policy document and conduct discussions/debates, interviews, and focus groups. This role offers the opportunity to conduct research and manage processes towards the delivery of the research project. You will work with the principal investigator and team to execute the research aspects of the work programme and support ongoing activities.



The candidate will work closely with the Leeds City Council team to evaluate the processes employed and produce a report with case studies and recommendations, including what these approaches might mean for policy and practice. In addition, you will advise and guide the project lead on sufficient approaches in collaboration with partners to help shape future public engagement programmes.

What does the role entail?

As a Research Fellow, your main duties will include:

- Contributing to the success of the investigation programme, managing assigned components of the project from planning and development to publication of outputs within set timeframes;
- Assisting with the development, collection, transcription and analysis of qualitative data that builds from the knowledge sharing events;
- Supporting research activities, including contributing to research outputs and the generation of independent and original ideas, ensuring a successful programme of investigation;
- Assisting in developing non-digital and digital materials for impact purposes;
- Generating and pursuing independent and original research ideas in the appropriate subject area;
- Developing research objectives and proposals and contributing to setting the direction of the research project and team, including preparing proposals for funding in collaboration with colleagues;
- Evaluating methods and techniques used and results obtained by other researchers and to relate such evaluations appropriately to your own research;
- Making a significant contribution to the dissemination of research results by publication in leading peer-reviewed journals and by presentation at national and international meetings;
- Working independently and as part of a larger team of researchers, both internally and externally, to develop new research links and collaborations and engage in knowledge transfer activities where appropriate;
- Maintaining your own continuing professional development and acting as a mentor to less experienced colleagues as appropriate;
- Contributing to the training of both undergraduate and postgraduate students, including assisting with the supervision of projects in areas relevant to the project.



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 a Research Fellow you will have:

- A PhD (or have submitted your thesis before taking up the role), preferably in Architecture, Humanities or Social Sciences or a closely allied discipline;
- Ability to develop and apply visualisation tools to support spatial and virtual communications with public users;
- Good visualisation skills, including Illustrator, Photoshop, and animation;
- Experience supporting research activities, including, for example, contributing to research results and outputs, and to the generation of independent and original ideas, ensuring a successful programme of investigation;
- Experience in conducting policy analysis, applying qualitative research methods and producing policy reports;
- Good time management and planning skills, with the ability to meet tight deadlines and manage competing demands effectively without close support;
- A developing track record of peer-reviewed publications in international journals;
- Excellent communication skills both written and verbal, and the ability to communicate your research at national and international conferences;
- A proven ability to work well both independently and in a team;
- A strong commitment to your own continuous professional development.

You may also have:

- Experience of pursuing external funding to support research;
- Experience of research project administration (including meeting management, handling project budgets, documentation, and obtaining ethical approvals);
- Experience of setting up and maintaining social media content (text, audio, and video).



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 advertised [closing date](#).

Contact information

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

[Professor Gehan Selim](#), Hoffman Wood Professor of Architecture

Tel: +44 (0)113 343 3082

Email: G.Selim@leeds.ac.uk

Additional information

Faculty and School Information

Further information is available on the research and teaching activities of the [Faculty of Engineering](#) and the [School of Civil Engineering](#).

A diverse workforce

As an international research-intensive university, we welcome students and staff from all walks of life and from across the world. We foster an inclusive environment where all can flourish and prosper, and we are proud of our strong commitment to student education. Within the Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences we are dedicated to diversifying our community and we welcome the unique contributions that individuals can bring, and particularly encourage applications from, but not limited to Black, Asian and ethnically diverse people; people who identify as LGBT+; and people with disabilities. Candidates will always be selected based on merit and ability.

The Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences are proud to have been awarded the Athena SWAN [Silver](#) Award from the Equality Challenge Unit, the national body that promotes equality in the higher education sector. Our [equality and inclusion webpage](#) provides more information.



Working at Leeds

We are a campus based community and regular interaction with campus is an expectation of all roles in line with academic and service needs and the requirements of the role. We are also open to discussing flexible working arrangements. To find out more about the benefits of working at the University and what it is like to live and work in the Leeds area visit our [Working at Leeds](#) information page.

Information for disabled candidates

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

Salary Requirements of the Skilled Worker Visa Route

Please note that this post may be suitable for sponsorship under the Skilled Worker visa route but first-time applicants might need to qualify for salary concessions. For more information, please visit: www.gov.uk/skilled-worker-visa.

For research and academic posts, we will consider eligibility under the Global Talent visa. For more information, please visit: <https://www.gov.uk/global-talent>.

