

Job Description

Job Title	Research Assistant - Healthy and Sustainable Settings
School/Service	Healthy and Sustainable Settings Unit in the School of Health, Social Work and Sport
Grade	Grade E
Responsible to	Professor Michelle Baybutt
Responsible for	N/A

Job Purpose:

As part of a team of experienced researchers, the Research Assistant will contribute to strengthening and supporting the thematic research area of Health and Wellbeing with day-to-day responsibility for data collection and in collaboration with colleagues, data analysis and writing of reports. The post-holder will specifically support research that develops a critical understanding of a settings-based model of healthy coastal communities whilst further developing their own aligned research skills and experience. They will actively participate in the development and dissemination of research with peers, external stakeholders and relevant organisations.

The post is located at UCLan's Westlakes campus near Whitehaven in West Cumbria and contributes to the development and implementation of a programme of research that is both aligned to the UCLan Westlakes integrated business plan and embedded in the Healthy and Sustainable Settings Unit at UCLan, Preston reflecting the World Health Organisation's *Healthy Settings* initiative.

The post-holder will additionally register, once in post, for part-time study towards a Doctorate to further strengthen the academic research environment, which will be on a topic that falls within agreed thematic areas of the project and to strengthen evidence relating to health promoting settings more broadly.

Main Duties and Responsibilities

1. To contribute to all aspects of research and knowledge exchange undertaken by the Westlakes Research theme of Health and Wellbeing within a settings and placed-based framework.
2. Under the direction and guidance of Prof. Michelle Baybutt, undertake qualitative and quantitative research with real-world impact, participating in data collection, analysis, interpretation, synthesis and management.
3. To contribute to the collation of findings and the preparation of written outputs (reports and papers) to disseminate research findings - including refereed journal articles and conference papers.
4. To provide administrative support, facilitate project-planning and operational update meetings, and contribute to the day-to-day management of research project resources and/or facilities as required.
5. Supporting the Director of the HSSU by contributing to new bid/grant applications and report writing for the West Lakes Research Cluster, HSSU and aligned UCLan Research Institutes.
6. To contribute to the development of new projects including support to established researchers at Westlakes and the HSSU.

7. To adhere to appropriate ethical, and research governance, standards for research and protect confidentiality throughout this work.
8. To assist academic staff in the classroom to support research-informed teaching and in research supervisions for PG students with relevant specialist knowledge exchange, thereby helping to enhance the student experience.
9. To undertake any other additional research related activities as requested by the nominated line manager/Director of the Healthy and Sustainable Settings Unit or the Head of School

Person Specification



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Attributes	Essential	Desirable	Measured By
Work Experience	<p>Experience of working in a Public Health field related to healthy communities.</p> <p>Understanding mechanisms to apply/work within a settings- or place-based approach.</p> <p>Experience of undertaking research using qualitative and/or quantitative methodologies.</p> <p>Experience of writing high quality written research reports</p> <p>Experience of contributing to peer-reviewed publications.</p>	<p>Experience of working in a field related to coastal communities.</p> <p>Experience of applying a settings- or place-based approaches.</p> <p>Some knowledge/experience of the application of the concept of public value in daily life and work</p> <p>Experience of using both qualitative and quantitative methods in data collection and analysis.</p> <p>Experience of conducting literature reviews.</p> <p>Experience of co-production with difficult to engage groups/communities.</p>	Application form, interview & references.
Education/Qualifications	<p>Good Honours Degree (2:1 or above) or equivalent in a relevant area.</p> <p>Master's Degree or higher post-graduate qualification in an area related to Public Health.</p>	<p>Demonstration of academic or professional development in support of your area of research expertise.</p> <p>Professional qualification(s).</p> <p>Training in research methods.</p> <p>Agree to undertake part time Doctoral study within the thematic area of the post, at UCLan</p>	Application form and pre-work check of Certificates.

<p>Skills/Abilities</p>	<p>Skills in research, innovation, impact and/or knowledge exchange.</p> <p>Ability to build professional networks for project development and research impact.</p> <p>General IT literacy & competence (e.g. Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint).</p> <p>Specific IT literacy & competence in research software (e.g. NVIVO, SPSS).</p> <p>Excellent verbal and written communications and inter - personal skills.</p> <p>Excellent organisational skills, & the ability to self - motivate and work effectively as part of a team.</p>	<p>Knowledge and understanding of application of settings-/place-based theory.</p> <p>Understanding of professional networks for project development and research impact.</p> <p>Good Interpersonal Skills.</p>	<p>Application Form and interview</p>
<p>Other</p>	<p>Interest in research related to settings-based and placed-based health improvement/Public Health.</p> <p>Appreciation of the multi-disciplinary/collaborative nature of working with a wide range of community actors</p> <p>Ability to work flexibly to accommodate the needs of the role and which may take place outside of office hours.</p> <p>Professional approach to administrative duties.</p> <p>An understanding of and demonstrable commitment to the University's Vision, Mission, Values and Aspirations as a framework for decisions, actions and behaviours.</p>	<p>A positive 'can do' attitude.</p> <p>Commitment to continued professional development.</p>	<p>Application Form and Interview</p>