

THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER
PARTICULARS OF APPOINTMENT
FACULTY OF SCIENCE & ENGINEERING
SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING
DEPARTMENT OF MECHANICAL, AEROSPACE & CIVIL ENGINEERING
RESEARCH ASSOCIATE IN ENABLING WATER SMART COMMUNITIES (GOVERNANCE AND DESIGN)
VACANCY REF: SAE-019820

Salary: Grade 6 £34,308 to £42,155 pro rata per annum, depending on relevant experience

Hours: Part time (0.8 FTE 28 hours per week)

Duration: Fixed term from 1 December 2022 until 30 September 2025

Location: Oxford Road, Manchester

Enquiries about the vacancy, shortlisting and interviews:

Name: Dr Claire Hoolohan

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Background

'Enabling Water Smart Communities' is a new collaboration between Anglian Water, the University of Manchester, the University of East Anglia, and numerous other industry, policy and public sector partners. Water Smart Communities are settlements that combine different elements of water management to deliver multiple benefits for society and the environment. They use a holistic and integrated approach to urban water management to contribute to green high-quality open spaces, promote sustainable use of water resources, build resilience to climate change and extreme weather events, contribute to biodiversity and deliver water efficient homes.

The University of Manchester role in this project is to understand how the design, construction and use of Water Smart Communities are affected by the visions and expectations that a variety of actors have about how water is used in everyday life. The University of Manchester has some of the most innovative and highly regarded centres for sustainability research in the UK. The successful candidate will benefit from a place within the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research, a world-leading centre for interdisciplinary climate change research and be part of vibrant and supportive research institutes across the University of Manchester (in both Faculties of Science and Engineering and Humanities). The successful candidate will have access to

unrivalled specialist expertise and opportunities to develop transferable skills. The candidate will be supervised by Dr Claire Hoolohan (Tyndall), co-supervised and mentored by Dr Alison Browne (Human Geography), and have close connections with the academic team at the University of East Anglia (Dr Tom Hargreaves).

Overall Purpose of the Job

This is an interdisciplinary, collaborative project during which the candidate will undertake research to contribute to increasing the upscaling and efficacy of Water Smart Communities. The candidate will work closely with project partners (particularly Anglian and ARUP, University of East Anglia) to inform the design and delivery of water smart communities. Key elements of this post are:

- Conduct desk research to identify the visions and expectations of water smart communities that different stakeholders have, and the implications of these for design and use of water smart communities.
- Lead the design and conduct of Change Points workshops (<http://www.changepoints.net/>) with professionals and the public to examine themes including: What prevents sustainable water use in water smart homes? How can the diverse needs of people and communities be reflected in the design water smart homes? Where does responsibility and agency for water saving lie in water smart communities, and with what implications for water use?
- Interviews Water Smart Community professionals to understand how professionals expect water smart homes to affect the practices of everyday life that use water in current and future homes.

Key Responsibilities, Accountabilities or Duties

The range of duties will include:

- Lead on the research design of desk research, interviews and workshops.
- Complete an ethics review.
- Identify and recruit participants for each stage of the research.
- Conduct documentary analysis.
- Conduct interviews.
- Manage and maintain data in secure storage.
- Organise and facilitate workshops.
- Analyse and write up of findings for both academic, industry and public audiences (including at least 2 academic papers).
- Liaise with project partners both formally (through the provision of a regular update) and informally.
- Attend relevant project meetings and events.
- Contribute to project reporting with Anglian Water, Arup and project partners.

- Collaborate with equivalent team at the University of East Anglia.
- Contribute to collaborative decision making with colleagues in areas of research.

Person Specification

Essential Qualification:

- Minimum educational qualifications at Masters level of First or High 2.1 (or graduation imminent, UK Masters equivalent) including independent research dissertation in a relevant academic field such as human geography, environmental sociology, environmental humanities, environmental governance, planning, and sustainable design.

Desirable Qualification:

- A PhD or equivalent (or submission/viva of thesis imminent) in a relevant academic field such as human geography, environmental sociology, environmental humanities, environmental governance, planning, and sustainable design.

Essential Criteria:

- Theoretical knowledge of social practice theories, everyday geographies, and/or sociology of consumption and interconnected academic debates about everyday practices, resource consumption and resource demands.
- Capacity to apply this working knowledge of social theory to the analysis of contemporary water policy, water governance and implementation issues linked to range of topics including water demand/efficiency, climate extremes (drought, flood), water technologies and infrastructures (digital water, household infrastructures), and blue-green infrastructures.
- Demonstrable experience conducting qualitative desk-based research, such as literature review, discourse analysis, media analysis, policy analysis and/or secondary thematic analysis.
- Demonstrable experience with interview or other talk-based methods, such as qualitative semi-structured interviewing, focus groups, workshops and/or home tours.
- Willingness to work, and be trained to work, with mixed method data, including quantitative datasets.
- Awareness of relevant ethical issues and processes for social science research.
- Willingness to work, and be trained to work, with interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary teams and with policy, NGO and business partners in the UK Water Sector.
- Willingness to learn quickly about the UK water governance and water policy context.
- Experience and evidence of leading writing on academic outputs including high quality research dissertations or academic journal articles.
- Willingness to lead, write, and be trained to write, outputs for a variety of academic and non-academic audiences.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills, including the ability to share findings with different stakeholders (academic, industry, policy).

- Excellent time management and organisational skills.
- Flexible approach to dealing with research problems as they arise.

Desirable Criteria:

- Experience of ethical review process equivalent to the University of Manchester's.
- Experience working collaboratively with water industry partners.
- Experience working collaboratively with other disciplines.
- Experience running complex multi-stakeholder workshops.
- Academic writing skills evidenced by publications at competitive conferences and journals.
- Demonstrable research leadership experience and project management skills.
- Experience curating, managing, and maintaining datasets securely.