

Job Description

Role Title:	Research Fellow in Nature and Wellbeing
Faculty / Dept:	Faculty of Science, Engineering and Environment
Reference:	GRP76
Grade:	Grade 7
Full or Part time:	Full time
Hours:	1.0 FTE
Reports to:	Principal Investigator

Overview

The University of Salford is committed to transforming lives through research, innovation and partnership working. This exciting interdisciplinary fellowship is based within the Faculty of Health, Community & Life Sciences within the cross-faculty Environmental Research & Innovation Centre (ERIC) and is supported through a major partnership with BUPA which focuses on nature-based health interventions and social prescribing. The postholder will utilise the Thrive Health and Wellbeing Centre rooftop garden as a living laboratory to generate evidence, innovation and measurable impact, alongside wider impacts in Salford, Greater Manchester and beyond.

The Fellowship will support implementation of nature-based interventions, strengthen university-industry collaboration, contribute to environmental and health improvements, and embed learning from major national and international projects, including the Horizon Europe / UKRI-funded GreenME. The role will work across research, implementation, stakeholder engagement, evaluation and knowledge exchange activities throughout Salford, Greater Manchester and on a broader scale.

Full-time, fixed-term appointment for 2 years. Candidates are expected to start the role by October or November at the latest. This is a hybrid role, but substantial in-person work in Salford and Greater Manchester is a core requirement.

Role Purpose

The Impact Research Fellow will operationalise the Thrive rooftop space through research, CPD activities and best practice. They will evaluate health, wellbeing and equity outcomes associated with nature-based interventions; support the Public Realm & Enabling Infrastructure Programme; contribute to regional roll-out of the Green Care Quality Mark (operationalized through Social Farms & Gardens); facilitate partnerships; coordinate impact activities; and support the delivery of major events including the Nature for Wellbeing Conference in April 2027 at the University of Salford.

Principal Duties & Responsibilities

- Conduct high-quality research aligned with project objectives.
- Produce a systematic review within the first two months and identify transferable best practice.
- Design and undertake qualitative, quantitative and mixed-methods research.
- Evaluate health, wellbeing and environmental outcomes arising from interventions.
- Develop seasonal workplans for Thrive during 2026/27 and 2027/28.
- Support delivery of CPD and training activities.
- Contribute to expansion of the Green Care Quality Mark.
- Coordinate stakeholder engagement activities and partnership development.
- Lead and support dissemination activities, publications and conference presentations.
- Deliver quarterly reports to BUPA and University stakeholders.
- Support the Social Farms & Gardens Nature for Wellbeing 2027 conference at the University of Salford and other major events.
- Develop future funding bids and legacy opportunities.
- Travel nationally and internationally where appropriate.
- Maintain ethical, governance and health and safety standards.
- Perform any other duties appropriate to the grade as may be required by the Head of School/Head of Division etc.
- Comply with the personal health and safety responsibilities specified in the University Health and Safety policy.
- To engage with the University's commitment to put our students first and deliver services which are customer orientated, represent value for money and contribute to the financial and environmental sustainability of the University when undertaking all duties and aspects of the role.
- Advance equality, support our work towards eliminating unlawful discrimination, foster an inclusive study and work environment for students, staff and visitors in accordance with our public sector equality duties and university policy.

This role detail is a guide to the work you will initially be required to undertake. It may be changed from time to time to meet changing circumstances. It does not form part of your Contract of Employment.

Person specification follows on next page

Person Specification

The successful candidate should demonstrate the following, which are 'Essential' (E) or 'Desirable' (D)

Qualifications

1. A good honours degree and/or Masters degree in Public Health, Environmental Studies, Geography, Planning, Health Sciences, Psychology or a related discipline (Essential).
2. Hold, or have submitted for examination, a PhD in a relevant field (Essential).

Background and Experience

1. Experience conducting research relating to nature-based interventions, public health, health equity, wellbeing, environmental justice or related themes (Essential).
2. Experience working collaboratively within multidisciplinary teams (Essential).
3. Evidence of publications, reports or impact outputs (Essential).
4. Experience of stakeholder engagement and partnership working (Essential).
5. Experience organising events, workshops or knowledge-exchange activities (Desirable).
6. Experience contributing to funding applications (Desirable).

Knowledge

1. Knowledge of nature-based interventions and green social prescribing (Essential).
2. Understanding of health inequalities and wellbeing outcomes (Essential).
3. Knowledge of research impact and knowledge exchange approaches (Essential).
4. Knowledge of qualitative and quantitative research methodologies (Essential).
5. Understanding of green infrastructure, public realm or environmental policy (Desirable).
6. Knowledge of Green Care Quality Mark approaches and frameworks (Desirable).

Skills and Competencies

1. Excellent written and verbal communication skills (Essential).
2. Ability to engage effectively with academic, policy and practitioner audiences (Essential).
3. Strong organisational and project management skills (Essential).
4. Ability to work independently and proactively (Essential).
5. Ability to generate high-quality research outputs (Essential).
6. Ability to translate research into practical impact (Essential).
7. Commitment to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (Essential).