

Job Description

Role Title:	Research Fellow in Greenspace and Health
School / Dept:	School of Science, Engineering and Environment
Reference:	GRP76
Grade:	Grade 7
Full or Part time:	Part time – Fixed Term Contract 12 Months
Hours:	0.9 FTE
Reports to:	Professor

Overview

The University of Salford is the fastest growing university in the Northwest and the 5th fastest growing in the UK. This is an exciting joint post between the School of Science, Engineering and Environment (SEE), the School of Health & Society (H&S) at the University of Salford and Edge Hill University. At Salford, the Schools aim to transform the quality of life for society and the well-being of future generations through a better and more sustainable future. Industry collaboration is at the core of what we do. This is combined with a passion for innovation, finding creative solutions to current and future challenges through our applied research and enterprise activities. Our work is truly interdisciplinary with a strong focus on knowledge development and subsequent knowledge exchange.

GreenME (advancing Greencare in Europe: an integrated multi-scalar approach for the expansion of naturebased therapies to improve Mental health Equity) is a 4-year €5.8 million Horizon Europe project, involving some 19 core partners and an array of other external organisations across Europe and the USA. The project aims to identify ways in which effective nature-based therapy and a broader green care framework can be scaled up to improve adult mental health and wellbeing equity, while also contributing to multiple socio-ecological cobenefits. To that end, over 4 years, GreenME's approach is to diagnose, to increase scientific evidence on the mental health and wellbeing benefits of green care and to empower green care actors. The evidence generated will offer replicable partnership models and guidelines to design impactful cross-sectorial green care systems, with national healthcare systems and local governments amongst the beneficiaries, leading to a higher uptake of nature-based therapy and a general reframing of the green infrastructure functionality.

You will work primarily with Prof Mike Hardman (SEE), Prof Penny Cook (H&S) and Prof Michelle Howarth (Edge Hill), alongside the wider GreenME team. In the UK, this wider team consists of Dr Silvio Caputo at the University of Kent, to Social Farms & Gardens and Mind UK. We are looking for a passionate, highly motivated, and creative interdisciplinary researcher who has a background in Geography, Environmental Studies, Planning, Health or a related field. The UK team's work cuts across multiple elements of GreenME, from exploring innovative policy and practice around green care, to the spatial assessment of schemes and impact of initiatives on the ground.

Post duration: The post is a Full Time 1 year role (0.9 FTE) and is available from August 2026.

Role Purpose

This work will involve a diverse range of activities to develop and/or participate, such as (but not limited to) the following:

- To take part in a baseline assessment of Greencare, both within the UK and globally
- To employ a range of qualitative and quantitative tools to capture the impact of interventions
- To undertake a spatial analysis of the impact of schemes across partner countries, including urban and rural interventions in the UK
- To enable the growth of sustainable Greencare models, alongside taking part in wider dissemination activities with the broader group

Principal Duties & Responsibilities

- Conduct research on the given research topic in line with the project requirements.
- Contribute to research publications in journals and conferences.
- Disseminate research outcomes in collaboration with the project researchers at relevant conferences, exhibitions, industry events (including seminars, workshops, etc.).
- Undertake visits to project partners, both across the UK, the EU and potentially the USA.
- Hold regular meetings with the project team at different levels, keeping recording minuting and being pro-active with decisions and self-direction.
- Carry out high quality research in line with the requirements of the current funded projects.
- Liaise with other stakeholders, both internal and at project partners as required to achieve the project deliverables.
- Contribute to the general academic activities of the university, such as promoting good practice to other researchers, as well as complementing appropriate teaching and learning activities.
- Develop and maintain skills in relevant research methodologies.
- Meet project deadlines with deliverables in line with the overarching plan of the project.
- Maintain high standards of academic and commercial confidentiality.

Generic Duties

- Perform any other duties appropriate to the grade as may be required by the Dean 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. Hold a good honours degree and/or Masters in a broadly related field (E)
2. Hold, or have submitted for examination, a PhD (or appropriate higher degree) in a subject relevant to Geography, Environmental Studies, Planning, Health or a related field to the GreenME project OR have equivalent substantial experience within research or practice related to Greencare studies (E)

Background and Experience

3. Experience of research focussing on urban communities, green infrastructure, green care, population health or related fields of study (E)
4. Experience with working in a wider research group or team (E)
5. An emerging record of research publications and potentially grants (E)

Knowledge

6. Broad knowledge of topics relevant to GreenME: ranging from urban health to naturebased solutions and other themes (E)
7. Knowledge of qualitative and quantitative tools relevant to GreenME (E)
8. Geographical Information Systems, particularly experience of using QGIS (E)

Skills and Competencies

9. Excellent communication, interpersonal and team-working skills (E)
10. Ability or potential to undertake research and potential to generate external funding (E)
11. A firm commitment to personal and professional development (E)
12. A demonstrable commitment to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, along with an understanding of the needs of students from diverse social and ethnic backgrounds including full-time, part-time, mature, professional and international students (E)

