

**RESEARCH ASSISTANT  
(OUTDOOR LEARNING RESEARCH HUBS),  
0.4 FTE  
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE, NATURAL RESOURCES AND  
OUTDOOR STUDIES  
FIXED TERM FOR 10 MONTHS  
14 HOURS PER WEEK  
AMBLESIDE  
£25,298 – 31,076 PA PRO RATA  
INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL APPLICANTS WELCOME**

\* Payscale are available from the [Human Resources Handbook](#)

A recent external grant to the University from the Institute for Outdoor Learning has enabled a new Research Assistant post in Outdoor Learning to be established. The focus of the research project will be the support for a pilot network of local research hubs to collate existing research findings and encourage new research by practitioners and providers of Outdoor Learning. This will involve the collection and analysis of data and findings from small-scale research studies in Outdoor Learning provided by the hubs. In addition, the assistant will support the development of a national framework for the analysis of these findings, the production of reports for the Strategic Research Group of the Council for Learning Outside the Classroom and the development of research questions and methods that will help the hub members respond to strategically important questions that will underpin policy development. The assistant will be supervised by members of the Outdoor Learning Research hub at the University of Cumbria and will supported by and report to an steering group of academics and practitioners engaged in the project.

The research assistant will initially focus on the following questions:

- What does the existing research evidence have to say about the impacts of different forms of Outdoor Learning?
- What does the existing research evidence have to say about best practices in Outdoor Learning?
- How best to develop a national framework that will enable the aggregation of evidence and findings and sharing these with a range of stakeholders?
- What methods can support the development of high quality action research
- In what ways does the evidence inform questions of national significance and what new questions are indicated?

This project is a 'proof of concept' pilot that we hope will lead to further funding to support the continuation of the project and the associated post. The research assistant will work towards the following outputs with the team and the steering group:

- A database of current small scale research findings
- A framework for reporting on Outdoor Learning research
- Reports addressing priority and well evidenced themes
- Tools to support small and medium scale action research
- Training in research for practitioners in the pilot local research hubs
- The development of new research activity in line with national priorities
- Revised national priorities in line with local issues and drivers

## **Department of Science, Natural Resources and Outdoor Studies**

The Department is one of seven academic departments situated within a Deanery. The University is committed to providing a supportive and collaborative working environment for all staff. There is a comprehensive programme of staff development and all colleagues are encouraged to enhance and develop their careers.

<http://www.cumbria.ac.uk/study/academic-departments/science-natural-resources-and-outdoor-studies/outdoor-studies/>

Outdoor Learning is a growing area of research activity in the department and covers Education, Health and Wellbeing, Leadership and Environmental Citizenship.

<http://www.cumbria.ac.uk/study/academic-departments/science-natural-resources-and-outdoor-studies/research/>

Informal enquiries should be directed to **Dr Chris Loynes**  
([chris.loynes@cumbria.ac.uk](mailto:chris.loynes@cumbria.ac.uk)) **015394 30334**.

**The closing date for this post is Midnight on 18th August 2017**

**Interviews will be in September with a start date of 1<sup>st</sup> October 2017 or soon after.**

Reference: 69342

It is anticipated that interviews for this post will take place on **Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2017 in Ambleside.**

If it is not possible to apply electronically via <https://cumbriajobs.engageats.co.uk/> please contact the recruitment team:

Phone: 01524 590883

Email: [jobs@cumbria.ac.uk](mailto:jobs@cumbria.ac.uk)



**ROLE PROFILE for LEVEL 1  
(RESEARCH ASSISTANT/RESEARCH ASSOCIATE)**

<b>LEVEL 1</b>	<b>RESEARCH</b>
1 Teaching and learning support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assist in the development of training for practitioner researchers in the pilot local research hubs</li> </ul>
2 Research and scholarship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess the quality and focus of completed research projects.</li> <li>Organise research according to a national framework.</li> <li>Conduct literature and database searches.</li> <li>Assess the efficacy of research tool.</li> </ul>
3 Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Write and support the writing of reviews of research findings.</li> <li>Present information on research progress and outcomes to bodies supervising research, e.g. steering groups.</li> <li>Prepare papers for steering groups and other bodies.</li> <li>Support advisory service for new practitioner led research.</li> </ul>
4 Liaison and networking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Liaise with research colleagues and steering group on routine matters.</li> <li>Make internal and external contacts to develop knowledge and understanding and form relationships for future collaboration.</li> </ul>
5 Managing people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide guidance as required to support local research hubs.</li> </ul>
6 Teamwork	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Actively participate as a member of the research team and steering group.</li> <li>Attend and contribute to relevant meetings.</li> </ul>
7 Pastoral care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Show consideration to others.</li> </ul>
8 Initiative, problem-solving and decision-making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evaluate research techniques and methods.</li> <li>Deal with problems which may affect the achievement of research objectives and deadlines</li> <li>Contribute to decisions affecting the work of the team.</li> <li>Analyse and interpret the research evidence and generate original ideas based on outcomes.</li> </ul>
9 Planning and managing resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plan own day-to-day research activity within the framework of the agreed programme.</li> <li>Co-ordinate own work with that of others to avoid conflict or duplication of effort.</li> <li>Contribute to the planning of the project.</li> </ul>
10 Sensory, physical and emotional demands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sensory and physical demands will vary from relatively light to a high level depending on the discipline and the type of work</li> <li>Carry out tasks that require the learning of certain skills.</li> </ul>
11 Work environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is required to be aware of the risks in the work environment.</li> </ul>
12 Expertise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Possess sufficient breadth or depth of specialist knowledge in the discipline.</li> <li>Be developing further skills in and knowledge of research methods and techniques.</li> <li>Skilled at the analysis of and reporting on findings.</li> </ul>

<b>PERSON SPECIFICATION</b>		
<b>Post Title:</b> Research Assistant/Associate, 0.4 fte	<b>Department:</b>	Science, Natural Resources and Outdoor Studies
<b>Location:</b> Ambleside	<b>Grade:</b>	06/Ac1
<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Essential or Desirable</b>	<b>To be identified by: (eg Application form, interview)</b>
<b>Qualifications</b> Honours Degree (or equivalent) in relevant humanities or environmental sciences subject.	Essential	Application
Post graduate qualification / Higher Degree in a related area or willingness to undertake further study for such a qualification.	Essential	Form
<b>Experience</b> Experience of developing research objectives and proposals for own or joint research and of conducting individual and collaborative research projects.	Desirable	Application Form/Interview
Experience of doing literature searches and writing reports.	Essential	Application Form/Interview
Familiarity with relevant software to search for and analyse results.	Essential	Application Form/Interview
Experience of building networks and partnerships for collaborative research and scholarship.	Desirable	Application Form/Interview
Experience of mixed methods data analysis.	Desirable	Application form/interview
Experience of Outdoor Learning and related educational approaches.	Essential	Application form/interview
<b>Knowledge, Skills and Abilities</b>		
Knowledge of research methodologies	Essential	Application Form/Interview
Ability to organise and prioritise tasks	Essential	Application Form/Interview
Responsible approach to self motivation/teamwork	Essential	Application Form/Interview
Able to communicate effectively to a diverse range of people and in different modes.	Essential	Application Form/Interview
Able to work under pressure and time constraints	Essential	Application Form/Interview

<b>Other</b>		
Willing and able to travel between University sites and to other sites as necessary	Essential	Application Form/Interview
Commitment to the Mission of the University	Essential	Application Form/Interview
Demonstrable commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion at work	Essential	Interview
Demonstrable commitment to a healthy and safe working environment	Essential	Interview
Flexible approach to work	Essential	Interview