

JOB DESCRIPTION

Vacancy reference:	SRF41237
Post Title:	Postdoctoral Research Associate in Net Zero Carbon building design and delivery
Grade:	Grade 6, spine point 27 - 34
School/Department:	School of the Built Environment
Reports to:	PI
Responsible for:	Prof. Libby Schweber

Purpose

To undertake research and research related duties on the on the ESRC-funded 'Carbon Artifacts: a socio-material approach to low and net zero carbon building design from concept to handover (ES/W004216/1).

The two-year project will focus on the design and delivery low and net-zero carbon buildings poses for construction professionals. Drawing on socio-technical theories of epistemic artefacts, the focus will be on the way in which particular commitments are embedded in artefacts, how different disciplines interpret and act on them and what happens to carbon reduction commitments as artefacts travel across different phases of the design and delivery process.

The University of Reading led project (investigators Prof. Libby Schweber and Dr. Dragana Nikolic) is in joint collaboration with Prof. Sonja Oliveira (School of Civil and Building Engineering) at the University of Strathclyde and a number of architectural firms. Three academic investigators and two full-time post-doctoral researchers are involved on the research project.

Main duties and responsibilities

We are looking for an individual with expertise in either socio-technical approaches to building design and delivery and/or in the delivery of net-zero carbon buildings. The principal duties and responsibilities include:

- Research and carry out relevant literature reviews in areas including: socio-technical approaches to design, with a focus on materiality; professional and disciplinary ways of thinking; visualization of building related artefacts; low and net-zero carbon building design; and delivery and teaching sustainable design
- Work with the investigators to develop appropriate project research methodologies
- Develop new research objectives that extend the research project
- Engage with project stakeholders, including industrial partners, research subjects and advisory board members, to co-ordinate and develop planned research activities
- Manage and conduct qualitative fieldwork research into professional engagement with low carbon artefacts in at least two case project studies
- Maintain detailed and accessible records of the research process
- Manage data and conduct initial coding using Nvivo
- Contribute to the development, summary and presentation of findings, including industry reports and teaching materials

- Contribute to the dissemination of research findings through academic conferences, papers and other published outputs
- Contribute to planned impact activities to maximize the impact of the research project
- Work collaboratively with the other investigators and researchers at the University of Reading and the University of Strathclyde
- Undertake research in a professional and ethical responsible manner
- Participate in relevant professional development and training activities

Supervision received

This post-holder will report to Dr. Dragana Nikolic. Prof. Libby Schweber from SBE will provide an oversight role.

Supervision given

N/A

Contact

The main points of contact will be with Prof. Libby Schweber (line manager) and Dr. Dragana Nikolic (supervisor) at the School of the Built Environment, University of Reading

Terms and conditions

This is a full time, fixed term position, from 17 October 2022.

This document outlines the duties required for the time being of the post to indicate the level of responsibility. It is not a comprehensive or exhaustive list and the line manager may vary duties from time to time which do not change the general character of the job or the level of responsibility entailed.

Date assessed: March 2022

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Job Title	School/Department
Postdoctoral Research Associate in Net Zero Carbon building design and delivery	School of the Built Environment

Criteria	Essential	Desirable
Skills Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Qualitative social science research skills Reasonable ability to understand and analyse technical and engineering problems AND/OR Reasonable ability to understand and analyse organizational problems Able to work independently and as part of a team Able to communicate with a wide range of different stakeholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Socio-technical analysis Design and delivery of high performance/sustainable buildings Project management
Attainment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PhD or equivalent in research experience Record of publications commensurate with career stage 	
Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge of socio-technical approaches AND/OR Knowledge of building design and delivery processes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge of social science approaches to the study of materiality and practice Knowledge of visualization techniques Knowledge of STEM curriculum design and delivery
Relevant Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research experience, either through PhD or Research Assistant training or equivalent Experience working with industry professionals and academics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Qualitative data collection and analysis Drafting of industry reports or equivalent Drafting of academic journal articles or equivalent
Disposition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curious, collegial, organized, independent, disciplined, professional 	
Completed by: Prof. Libby Schweber		Date: 3 March 2022