Job Related Information

This document includes information about the role for which you are applying and the information you will need to provide with your application.

1. Role Details

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vacancy reference</td>
<td>13885</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Job title:</td>
<td>Post-doctoral Research Associate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reports to:</td>
<td>Dr George Revill Co-i EPSRC funded project Next Generation Paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salary:</td>
<td>£32,548 to £33,518 per annum according to qualifications and experience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terms and conditions:</td>
<td>Academic Staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade</td>
<td>AC2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration of post:</td>
<td>Temporary contract until 30 November 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working hours:</td>
<td>37 hours per week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location:</td>
<td>To be based either at The Open University, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes or University of Surrey depending on the circumstances of the successful candidate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closing date:</td>
<td>17:00 on 20 October 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type of application form accepted:</td>
<td>Long Version</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of referees required:</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit recruitment contact:</td>
<td>The Assistant (Staffing), email <a href="mailto:FASS-Recruitment@open.ac.uk">FASS-Recruitment@open.ac.uk</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. Summary of duties

The appointed candidate will be attached to the Geography Department in the School of Politics, Philosophy, Economics, Development and Geography, and to the OpenSpace Research Centre. The department and the centre have a vibrant research environment with research focused around three signature areas of research excellence:

- Space and Power
- Culture and Practice
- Environment and Politics

OpenSpace hosts a regular seminar programme, work in progress meetings and provides opportunities for skills training both through the University’s researcher development programme and through events jointly organised with other Centres within the Faculty.

The appointed candidate will also work closely with colleagues at the University of Surrey School of Hospitality and Tourism Management. The study fits with the School’s research priority area concerning:

- The Digital Visitor Economy; addressing the role of digital technologies in enhancing the guest experience through augmented reality, smart phones, social media and media more widely.

The successful candidate will support the research team by:

- Contributing to the literature review
- Setting up interviews and questionnaires and producing interview schedules
- Undertaking online and face-to-face interviews in South East England
- Setting up go-along type ethnographic encounters including preparation of participants for making diaries, logs or other forms of audio and visual evidence
- Undertaking ‘go-along’ type ethnographies accompanying participants to visitor experiences
- Analysing interview, questionnaire, and mixed media qualitative data
- Writing up research findings for submission to appropriate journals and conferences in conjunction with other team members
- Attending appropriate conferences for the purpose of disseminating research results
- Carrying out routine administrative tasks associated with the project including planning and prioritising day-to-day activities, liaising with project team, understanding budget, implementing procedures required to ensure accurate and timely formal reporting and financial control; meet project deadlines
- Engaging in impact activities including liaising with the professional advisory group, other users and producing project impact documents
- Archiving data according to data management plan

3. Person specification

Requirements (E = Essential/ D = Desirable)

Education, qualifications and training

- A PhD in Human Geography, Sociology, Social Anthropology, Travel and Tourism, or associated fields.
- An undergraduate degree in a relevant field

Knowledge, work and other relevant experience

Essential:  
- Knowledge/experience of working on one or more of the following areas: travel and tourism, qualitative methods, digital cultures, mobilities studies
• Knowledge and experience of travel media ethnography
• Knowledge and experience of studying new technology
• Experience in project management
• Experience of using qualitative and quantitative research methods
• Knowledge of ethnographic processes and practices
• Knowledge of qualitative mobile methodologies
• Experience of working on a collaborative research project
• Experience of fieldwork in the UK
• Previous record of high-quality academic publications

Desirable:
• Experience of lab-based usability testing of new technologies
• Interest in interactive e-books and the future of reading.

Personal abilities and qualities

Essential:
• Excellent knowledge of research methods, including face to face interviews and qualitative mobile methodologies, ethnographic practices, analytical techniques for qualitative and quantitative material and writing reports
• Ability to participate in fieldwork as required by the specified research project
• Ability to work in interdisciplinary teams (team-working)
• Ability to plan and organise own work to ensure deadlines are met
• Ability to coordinate, capture and interpret different types of information and activity
• Ability to adapt to changing situations in a timely manner
• Strong communication skills, with the ability to communicate effectively with both professionals and communities
• Cultural sensitivity and an ability to conduct research among diverse groups
• Strong IT skills
• Strong writing and presentation skills
• Commitment to own personal development

Desirable:
• Experience of telephone and/or VOIP interviewing

4. Role specific requirements e.g. Shift working

Post holder will be required to undertake a Travel Media Ethnography which will involve spending time conducting interviews and ‘go-along’ type ethnographic research with participants based in London and South-East England.

They will be required to work closely with academics and associates of the University of Surrey where the EPSRC funded project Next Generation Paper is based. The successful candidate will be granted Visiting Fellow Status in the Department of Tourism, University of Surrey. A further follow on post will be advertised at the University of Surrey in due course.
5. About the unit/department

The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS)

The Faculty is the largest and most diverse at The Open University, with some 50,000 students studying our modules with excellent completion rates and consistently outstanding student satisfaction ratings. Noted for the strength of our interdisciplinary approaches, our scholars of international standing teach and research a very wide range of topics and themes in specific subject areas, recognized as world class or internationally excellent in the latest Research Excellence Framework (REF) in 2014, and having a direct and profound influence on our undergraduate and postgraduate teaching.

The Faculty is organised into four Schools:

- School of Psychology
- School of Politics, Philosophy, Economics, Development, Geography
- School of History, Religious Studies, Sociology, Social Policy & Criminology
- School of Art History, Classical Studies, English & Creative Writing, Music

Students are supported by three Student Support Teams. These teams offer specialist study support to students undertaking our qualifications across the University. Members of academic staff, including regional academics, form part of these teams in sustaining and improving student progression and retention.

The Faculty works closely with important organisations and institutions in the UK and other parts of the world in a range of validated partnerships and collaborations. Engaged in world-class, agenda setting research tackling the most difficult challenges facing us in the 21st Century, with work in numerous subject-based and interdisciplinary research groups and projects.

With c.1800 members of staff comprising academics, associate lecturers, support staff and full-time research students working across the locations of the University, combining originality and innovation in research and curriculum, the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences is a vibrant and exciting place to study and work.

To find out more about the Faculty’s teaching, learning and research, please visit: [http://fass.open.ac.uk](http://fass.open.ac.uk).

The University of Surrey and School of Hospitality and Tourism Management

The University of Surrey is an international university with a world-class research profile and an enterprising spirit. Ranked 4th in the UK by the Guardian, the University of Surrey is inventive and forward-thinking.

The School of Hospitality and Tourism Management within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences has a worldwide reputation for excellence, ranked 1st in the UK by the Guardian league table and 5th in the world with 5 stars for excellence by the recent QS university rankings. Our academic team has an international reputation, strong engagement with industry and a highly productive research-culture across Hospitality, Events and Tourism Management. In particular, the school has identified three research priority areas;

- Competitiveness in the Visitor Economy; with a focus on forecasting demand, labour studies within tourism, events and hospitality and productivity.
- Sustainability and Well-Being in the Visitor Economy; with a focus on pro-environmental behaviour change, sustainable enterprises, indicators of sustainability and demonstrating the benefits for health and well-being through tourism, hospitality and events.
- The Digital Visitor Economy; addressing the role of digital technologies in enhancing the guest experience through augmented reality, smart phones, social media and media more widely.

Details of our activities, our specialisms and our successes can be found on our website [www.surrey.ac.uk/shtm](http://www.surrey.ac.uk/shtm)

The EPSRC project to which this job relates sits within the Digital Visitor Economy research group.

Please look at our website ([www.surrey.ac.uk/shtm](http://www.surrey.ac.uk/shtm)) to see the profiles of the staff who work in our school, and the kinds of activities they undertake.
6. How to obtain more information about the role or application process

If you would like to discuss the particulars of this role before making an application please contact Dr George Revill on +44 (0)1908 654947 or email george.revill@open.ac.uk; or Prof Caroline Scarles email c.scarles@surrey.ac.uk

If you have any questions regarding the application process please contact the Assistant (Staffing), email FASS-Recruitment@open.ac.uk.

7. The application process and where to send completed applications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Please ensure that your application reaches the University by:</th>
<th>17:00 on 20 October 2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Your Application should include | • A completed application Form (long version)  
• Curriculum Vitae  
• A cover letter detailing why you are suitable for this position (no longer than 2 sides of A4) |
| Post it to: | The Assistant (Staffing) |
| Department/Unit: | Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences |
| Address: | Room 140, Briggs Building  
The Open University  
Walton Hall  
Milton Keynes |
| Post Code: | MK7 6AA |
| Or e-mail your application to: | FASS-Recruitment@open.ac.uk |

8. Selection process and date of interview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The interview panel will be chaired by:</th>
<th>Dr George Revill, Senior Lecturer, Geography, Faculty of Arts &amp; Social Sciences, The Open University</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| The other members of the interview panel will be: | Prof Caroline Scarles, EPSRC co-I and Head of School of Hospitality and Tourism Management, University of Surrey  
Prof David Frohlich Professor of Interaction Design, University of Surrey |
| The interviews will take place on: | 20 November 2017 |
| The selection process for this post will include | The pre-interview selection process for this post will require an application form, CV and letter of application. **This will be followed by an interview which will take place at the University of Surrey.** |
We will let you know as soon as possible after the closing date whether you have been shortlisted for interview. Further details on the selection process will also be sent to shortlisted candidates.

*Applications received after the closing date will not be accepted.*