

## Lecturer in Environment and Sustainability

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*Full Time*

*Permanent*

*AC3*

*Walton Hall, Milton Keynes*

**We value diversity and we recognise that different people bring different perspectives, ideas, knowledge, and culture, and that this difference brings great strength.**

### **The role**

The post-holder will be from the fields of environmental science and sustainability. In the context of one or more of the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the Open University's strategic commitment in responding to the climate emergency, you will demonstrate a strong teaching, research and/or knowledge exchange portfolio (commensurate with stage of career) in one or more of the following key areas:

- environmental modelling, hazard prediction and risk assessment;
- environmental pollution and remediation;
- ecosystem services, (urban) ecology and/or nature-based solutions;
- ecosystem management and conservation and/or biodiversity;
- environmentally sustainable geology (extraction of minerals, radioactive waste disposal, engineering geology, renewable energy, carbon capture);
- hydrology or hydrogeology;
- microbial biodiversity and/or biogeochemistry;
- GIS and remote sensing.

The post-holder will be expected to work as part of an interdisciplinary team, supporting our Environmental and Earth Science curriculum at all levels of learning, including professional development. As part of this work, and specifically within the first two years of appointment, the post-holder will be involved in the creation of an innovative and research-informed module in environmental science and sustainability that maximises the potential offered by online and distance learning.

The post-holder will be expected to contribute to one or more of the existing research areas within the School of Environment, Earth and Ecosystem Sciences (which includes: ecosystems; Earth system modelling; paleoenvironmental change; dynamic Earth; astrobiology), and to secure external funding to support a programme of internationally competitive research (appropriate for the level of their appointment). They will also be expected to be able to contribute to future REF submissions aligned with Earth Systems and Environmental Sciences.

The post holder will have the opportunity to contribute to one or more of the existing knowledge exchange activities within the School (which includes public engagement, citizen science, partnership working, and enterprise), or to propose a new initiative. The University provides academics with interest in knowledge exchange in strategic areas with support for external funding applications. Such work would be expected to align with future KEF submissions.

## Key responsibilities

All academic staff are expected to undertake a combination of the following duties at a level appropriate for their career stage:

### Teaching

- a. To contribute to the development, planning, implementation and updating of a high-quality and successful curriculum at undergraduate and/or postgraduate levels, ensuring that these materials support the OU's mission to widen participation and inclusion in education.
- b. To prepare learning materials suitable for the teaching and learning methodologies used by the Open University, supporting retention, satisfaction, and successful progression for a diverse range of students.
- c. To contribute to the briefing, debriefing, and training of the network of Associate Lecturers who deliver teaching to students in the OU's supported distance learning model.
- d. To contribute to the direction of teaching and assessment/examination by the University, monitoring of samples of marking by Associate Lecturers, and to act as a member of examination boards, working to ensure that students from underrepresented backgrounds are supported to succeed.
- e. To contribute to the assurance and enhancement of the quality of teaching and learning within the School and in line with University and sector-wide standards.
- f. To contribute to the assurance and enhancement of the quality of research within the School and in line with University and sector-wide standards.
- g. To undertake professional development as an academic educator.

### Research

- a. To undertake a self-directed programme of fundamental, applied or engaged research in a disciplinary or interdisciplinary context that will contribute to the strengths of one (or more) of the school's research groups and at a level commensurate with the current standards of excellence in the Faculty.
- b. To generate external income, commensurate with stage of career and disciplinary benchmarks.
- c. To plan for, enact and generate evidence of research impact, relevant to the field of research.
- d. To undertake research that is internationally excellent and leads to high-impact outputs.
- e. To support the recruitment and retention of a diverse postgraduate research student community, and to provide supportive and constructive supervision of postgraduate research students, in line with University practice and procedures.
- f. To participate in, and host, School and Faculty seminars and workshops aimed at sharing research outcomes and fostering interdisciplinary collaboration and supporting the research community in the School.
- g. To undertake professional development as an academic researcher.

### Knowledge Exchange

- a. To (co)develop and run high-quality knowledge exchange activities in line with the strategic aims of the school.
- b. To apply/bid for, deliver, and manage individual enterprise activities (e.g. academic supervision of knowledge transfer programmes, consultancy).
- c. To participate in the national and international science community and learned societies.
- d. To develop and maintain a network of contacts and engagements with stakeholders as appropriate.

- e. To enhance the reputation of the School, the Faculty and the University through scientific meetings and other activities.

#### Administration & Management

- a. To engage with appropriate administrative tasks (e.g. workload planning, Career Development & Staff Appraisal).
- b. To contribute effectively to relevant academic or management fora.
- c. To undertake a programme of continuous professional development.

#### All Staff are expected to:

- a. Co-operate with the Open University in ensuring as far as is necessary, that Statutory Requirements, Codes of Practice, University Policies and Departmental Health and Safety arrangements are complied with.
- b. Have a strong commitment to the principles and practice of equality and diversity.
- c. Attend appropriate staff development events.

## Person Specification

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### Education, qualifications, and training

#### *Essential:*

- A completed PhD (or equivalent qualification) in a relevant discipline area.

### Knowledge, work and other relevant experience

#### *Essential:*

- Demonstrable experience of teaching support, training or supervision in a relevant subject area in a higher education context.
- Demonstrable commitment to addressing one or more of the UN Sustainable Development Goals in the context of environmental sustainability.
- Demonstrable experience in the use of ICT in a higher educational context.
- An understanding and experience of dealing with issues of widening access, inclusion and retention in the context of higher education.
- A broad knowledge of developments within specified discipline areas relevant to teaching, research and/or knowledge exchange in the context of higher education.
- Evidence of applying for external funding for research, knowledge exchange or teaching, considering stage of career.
- A good record of demonstrable research impact, commensurate with stage of career.
- Ability to develop new research collaborations within the University and with external organisations.
- A good publication record, commensurate with stage of career.

#### *Desirable:*

- Demonstrable experience of producing online and/or distance learning materials and supporting distance learning by adults.
- Higher Education professional accreditation or equivalent qualification.

### Personal abilities and qualities

#### *Essential:*

- Excellent team working skills and the ability to work adaptively and responsively with a variety of colleagues in multidisciplinary teams; particularly when the team is geographically dispersed.
- Demonstrable ability in a leadership role in teaching, research and/or knowledge exchange, commensurate with stage of career.
- The ability to write on issues outside of your immediate area of expertise, but in a related topic, in an informed and coherent manner.
- Excellent communication skills, both oral and written in a variety of contexts, including the ability to offer and receive constructive criticism.
- Demonstrable ability to plan and organise work to agreed deadlines.
- Commitment to the aims, ethos and values of the Open University and demonstrable knowledge of, and commitment to, equal opportunities principles and practice.

## About the Unit

### STEM

#### **Faculty of Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics**

The Faculty of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) is comprised of:

- School of Computing & Communications
- School of Environment, Earth & Ecosystem Sciences
- School of Engineering & Innovation
- School of Life, Health & Chemical Sciences
- School of Mathematics & Statistics
- School of Physical Sciences
- Knowledge Media Institute
- Deanery including teams supporting Curriculum; Research, Enterprise and Scholarship; Laboratory Infrastructure; and Faculty Administration

**“We aspire to be world leaders in inclusive, innovative and high impact STEM teaching and research, equipping learners, employers and society with the capabilities to meet tomorrow’s challenges”.**

The Faculty of STEM consists of 2500 staff, including 1,800 Associate Lecturers. The Faculty delivers over 185 modules across undergraduate and postgraduate curriculum, supporting nearly 19,000 students (full time equivalents) which is 29% of the OU total.

The Faculty generates more research income (circa £17M) than any other Faculty in the University, supported by a comprehensive laboratory infrastructure.

We are proud of our distinctive values and capabilities underpinning our aspiration:

*We are inclusive:*

- We transform people’s lives, ensuring STEM education is openly accessible to many thousands of students from diverse backgrounds – our students express high satisfaction with their study experience.
- We engage with members of the public in exciting citizen science and engineering, through free open educational resources, multi-platform broadcasting, and engagement to inspire the next generation and with programmes to encourage diversity in STEM.

*We are highly innovative:*

- We are at the forefront of innovative developments in teaching practical science and engineering at a distance, through simulated and remote access laboratories and practical experimentation.
- Our high-quality teaching and curriculum are informed by world-leading research, strong links with professional bodies and communities of practitioners, as well as by scholarship focused on continuously improving our STEM pedagogy.

*We deliver significant social and economic impact:*

- We provide STEM higher education at a scale and reach unsurpassed in the UK, with a sizeable international reach and further growth potential.

- We inject transferable STEM skills and knowledge direct into the workplace for immediate employee and employer benefit, as students combine study while working.
- The employability value of our courses is underpinned by accreditation from leading STEM Professional Bodies and Learned Societies, as well as partnerships and sponsorship with leading employers.
- Our high quality, applied and academically relevant teaching and research addresses real-world issues, delivering impact for industry and society, including addressing pressing STEM skill-shortages across the UK.

## **The School of Environment, Earth and Ecosystem Sciences**

We are an inclusive, diverse, and friendly community of Open University staff and students that is fascinated by the natural world around us.

Our vision is to investigate past and present environments, creating positive actions in response to the climate emergency.

Our mission is to use our world-leading teaching, research, and knowledge to address issues of social and environmental justice. Our aim is to empower scientific citizens, better equipping them to engage with local to global environmental issues.

We offer undergraduate modules and qualifications in Environmental Sciences, Earth Sciences, and Geography and Environmental Science, as well as a taught Masters programme.

EEES is home to a thriving research community with a shared vision to understand the processes and systems that nourish and sustain the world around us, from the microbial through to the planetary scale and beyond. Activity is grouped into thematic areas: Astrobiology; Dynamic Earth; Earth System Modelling; Ecosystems; Educational Research; and Palaeoenvironmental Change; plus Analytical Facilities and PhD Students.

We also offer exciting opportunities to communicate and engage with us, through citizen science initiatives, enterprise opportunities, free courses on OpenLearn, and co-productions with the BBC.

To find out more about our school, select: <http://www.open.ac.uk/eees>.

If you would like further details about the role before making an application then please email your query through to [Resourcing-Hub@open.ac.uk](mailto:Resourcing-Hub@open.ac.uk) or contact Donna Elstob +44 (0) 1908 653047.