

Research Assistant in Energy for Development

Department	Electronic and Electrical Engineering (www.strath.ac.uk/eee/)		
Faculty	Faculty of Engineering (www.strath.ac.uk/engineering/)		
Staff Category	Research	Reference No	188867
Reports To	The Head of Department, through Professor Stuart Galloway	Grade:	6
Salary Range:	£27830	Contract Type:	Fixed Term (6 months)
FTE:	1	Closing Date	Friday, 15 February 2019

Job Advert

The Department of Electronic and Electrical Engineering (EEE) at the University of Strathclyde was ranked 1st in Scotland in the 2014 Research Excellence Framework and 3rd, in the UK rankings. Strathclyde is one of the leading internationally renowned research intensive universities in the UK. The EEE Department hosts the Energy for Development (E4D) research team, which has an established track record in the design and management of large scale research and outreach programmes in the area of energy access, and has successfully undertaken a range of renewable energy projects in Malawi, Gambia and India over the previous fifteen years.

A Research Assistant is sought to support the E4D team (<https://strath-e4d.com/>) on multi-disciplinary research projects related to off-grid energy in Malawi. The successful applicant will support research and project management activities across a portfolio of projects managed by the team. Current activities which you will contribute to include:

- Supporting Community Energy Malawi to deliver on their energy access projects.
- Providing technical support to the Sustainable Energy Management Unit of the NGO United Purpose in Malawi.
- Knowledge capture and dissemination to support Malawi field projects.

Under the guidance of the project lead, the role of Research Assistant will involve working in culturally diverse teams; carrying out technical research and design tasks; business modelling; and design and delivery of training courses (possibly in-country); conducting literature reviews, interviews, analysis of on-site data captured through the development and conducting of surveys; compiling reports on the existing energy landscape and forming recommendations for future technology focus. The Research Assistant will be required to support the production of research reports and publications, and is expected to support and maintain existing partner relationships, and where appropriate identify new opportunities for expansion of previous research activities.

To be considered for this position requires candidates to be educated to post-graduate degree level in a relevant discipline (preferable with an international development and/or engineering focus) or have relevant experience and skills obtained in a related professional role, for example, with small-scale community based renewable system projects. Candidates must have an ability to work well as part of a team and possess excellent verbal and written communication skills. Candidates must have an aptitude for, and experience of problem solving, and have the ability to work on their own initiative.

Job Description

Brief Outline of Job:

Supporting the Energy for Development group on all current projects, including Community Energy Malawi and United Purpose. To assist in the delivery of research activities as part of a team, working on an established research programmes under the general supervision of senior colleagues; to input as a team member to administrative activities; to assist where required with relevant teaching and knowledge exchange activities.

Main Activities/Responsibilities:

1.	Assist in the delivery of research projects - this will include conducting literature reviews, conducting expert interviews, capturing on-site data through developing and conducting surveys and questionnaires, analysing data collected and compiling reports on the existing energy landscape and forming recommendations for future technology focus.
2.	Support the development and delivery of training for field staff for data collection.
3.	Plan and manage own workload, with guidance from colleagues as required.
4.	Write up results of own research and contribute to the production of research reports and publications.
5.	Prepare technical presentations for dissemination of work at conferences, workshops, and meetings
6.	Contribute to the planning of the research programmes, including contributing to the identification of future opportunities for new projects and assisting with writing funding proposals
7.	Assist with professional and knowledge exchange activities as required
8.	Represent the University of Strathclyde at project meetings and participate in external presentations as required
9.	Support the supervision of undergraduate student projects related to the area of Energy for Development.

Person Specification

Educational and/or Professional Qualifications

(E=Essential, i.e. a candidate must meet all essential criteria to be considered for selection, D=Desirable)

E1 Educated to Masters degree level in a relevant discipline

D1 Membership/working towards members of relevant Chartered/professional bodies (including Higher Education Academy)

Experience

E2 Sufficient breadth or depth of knowledge in the relevant discipline/s to effectively contribute to the research programme/s.

D2 Experience of working in a research and/or international development environment

D3 Relevant in-country (Malawi) research work experience.

D4 Relevant Sub-Saharan Africa research work experience.

D5 Previous publications, conference papers, major reports, and non-technical writing.

Job Related Skills and Achievements

E3 Excellent verbal and written communication skills with an ability to interact with a range of stakeholders.

E4 Good analytical and problem solving skills.

E5 Excellent IT skills.

D6 Project/Task Management skills.

D7 Ability to design and conduct training courses.

D8 Experienced in the use of off-grid energy system modelling and analysis.

Personal Attributes

E6 Organised and self-motivated, with the ability to prioritise own workload and deliver to deadlines

E7 Good interpersonal skills with the ability to build successful working relationships

E8 Ability to work effectively as part of a small team

Other Relevant Factors

D9 Experience of planning and delivering research and/or implementation projects in developing countries

Application Procedure

Applicants are required to complete an application form including the name of three referees who will be contacted before interview without further permission, unless you indicate that you would prefer otherwise. Applicants should also submit a Curriculum Vitae and a covering letter detailing the knowledge, skills and experience you think make you the right candidate for the job. Applicants should also complete the Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form.

Other Information

Further information on the application process and working at Strathclyde can be found on our website (<http://www.strath.ac.uk/hr/workforus>).

Informal enquiries about the post can be directed to Professor Stuart Galloway, (0141 548 5856 / stuart.galloway@strath.ac.uk).

Rewards and Benefits

Our staff have access to a wide range of outstanding benefits that include financial rewards, family friendly and wellbeing benefits and career development opportunities, details of which can be found [here](#).

Conditions of Employment

Conditions of employment relating to the Research staff category can be found at: [Conditions of Employment](#).

Probation

Where applicable, the successful applicant will be required to serve a 9 month probationary period.

Pension

The successful applicant will be eligible to join the Universities' Superannuation Scheme. Further information regarding this scheme is available from [Payroll and Pensions](#).

Relocation

Where applicable, the University offers a relocation package to support new employees who meet the eligibility criteria. The relocation package is offered as a contribution towards costs incurred, and is designed to be flexible, allowing staff to use the financial support available in the way that will be most helpful to them. Further details are outlined in the Relocation Policy.

Interviews

Formal interviews for this post will be held on Thursday, 28 February 2019.

Equality and Diversity

We value diversity and welcome applications from all sections of the community.

The University currently holds a Bronze Athena SWAN award, recognising our commitment to advancing women's careers in science, technology, engineering, maths and medicine (STEMM) employment in academia.

