



Research  
England



## UNIVERSITY OF LINCOLN JOB DESCRIPTION

|                   |  |              |   |             |            |
|-------------------|--|--------------|---|-------------|------------|
| <b>JOB TITLE</b>  | Post Doctoral Research Associate (spatial and structural determinants of rural and coastal health) |              |   |             |            |
| <b>DEPARTMENT</b> | Lincoln Institute for Rural and Coastal Health   |              |   |             |            |
| <b>LOCATION</b>   | Lincoln Campuses   |              |   |             |            |
| <b>JOB NUMBER</b> | CHS220   | <b>GRADE</b> | 7 | <b>DATE</b> | April 2025 |
| <b>REPORTS TO</b> | Prof Sarah Baker   |              |   |             |            |

### CONTEXT

The Lincoln Institute for Rural and Coastal Health (LIRCH) is the country's first integrated and multidisciplinary research institute dedicated to rural and coastal health research. LIRCH has been awarded £10.9 million funding from Research England's Expanding Excellence in England (E3) fund and is in the process of significant expansion. As part of this expansion, the University will recruit to over twenty research positions. A technical and professional services team will also be embedded within the Institute to support the research and develop a financially sustainable research Institute.

With this expanded capacity, the Institute will bring together multiple disciplines to produce impactful research helping to tackle the place-based inequalities experienced by rural, coastal, and remote communities. By co-designing and shaping the emerging discipline together with the next generation of researchers and affected communities, LIRCH aims to create the future academic and community leaders of rural and coastal health.

The postholder will contribute to shaping the collective research portfolio of LIRCH and is expected to have displayed a keen interest in understanding spatial and structural determinants of health, health outcome disparities faced by communities, and mixed-method approaches throughout their academic career to date.

### JOB PURPOSE

The Post Doctoral Research Associate is responsible for conducting research on projects within the LIRCH portfolio, as directed by the Principal Investigator, and is expected to operate with a significant degree of autonomy. They are not expected to operate as an independent researcher. The post holder may be required to help supervise the work of more junior researchers.

The appointed PDRA will contribute to the acquisition of external funding, helping to supervise PhD students, publishing in the highest quality journals and conferences, contributing to positive impacts on rural, remote and coastal communities, and conducting research in line with the targets set by LIRCH and the University of Lincoln.

In addition, the PDRA will support in public engagement activities, such as public workshops and may have future opportunities to contribute to postgraduate teaching activities.

## KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

| <b>Literature and Evidence Synthesis</b>   |
|--|
| Conduct comprehensive reviews including literature, scoping, rapid evidence and systematic reviews across a range of themes relevant to the Institute, and prepare reports as required.  |
| <b>Programme of Research</b>   |
| <p>Undertake a programme of interdisciplinary research under the direction of the Principal Investigator, demonstrating a significant level of autonomy.</p> <p>Lead in the production of high-quality research outputs, including reports, papers and other publications of national/international standing.</p>  |
| <b>Project Management</b>  |
| <p>Perform project management activities, planning, scheduling, monitoring and reporting on progress of research projects.</p> <p>Contribute to the production of annual reports and any other reporting requirements, as appropriate.</p>   |
| <b>Liaison and Networking</b>  |
| <p>Engage with external stakeholders and collaborators including local authorities, NHS partners, community organisations, and national bodies, together with colleagues in the Institute, at all times maintaining positive and effective working relationships.</p> <p>Establish an awareness of and engagement with stakeholder networks that are relevant to rural and coastal health as well as to the future evolution and success of the Institute.</p> |
| <b>Internal Research Activities</b>  |
| Participate in and help to organise internal research activities, including seminars, research meetings and conferences. Support interdisciplinary research development within LIRCH.  |
| <b>Continuous Professional Development</b>   |
| Undertake continuous professional development activities.  |
| <b>Grant Applications</b>  |
| <p>Contribute to the production of grant applications.</p> <p>Ensure impact plans are embedded in grant applications.</p>  |

### Teaching Support

Assist in the supervision of postgraduate research students.

**In addition to the above, undertake such duties as may reasonably be requested and that are commensurate with the nature and grade of the post.**

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

#### Scope and dimensions of the role

This is primarily a research-focussed role within the rapidly growing Lincoln Institute of Rural and Coastal Health. The postholder will be required to co-develop and conduct innovative studies using both quantitative and qualitative methods, including GIS, simulation modelling and community-engaged research. Working closely with external stakeholders, including local authorities, health and care providers, government bodies and community groups, the postholder will help to support the Institute's ambition for impactful, interdisciplinary research and sustainable community transformation.

The postholder is required to work collectively within and beyond the Institute as well as with community partners. They are expected to actively support efforts to co-create knowledge and strengthen research impact to ensure positive impacts for rural, remote and coastal communities, and contribute to achieving the objectives aligned to securing financial sustainability for the Institute.

#### Key working relationships/networks

| Internal   | External  |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Principal Investigators</li><li>• Institute Director</li><li>• LIRCH Senior Development Manager</li><li>• LIRCH Project Manager</li><li>• LIRCH Policy, Impact and Knowledge Exchange Manager</li><li>• LIRCH Project Administrator</li><li>• LIRCH Technical colleagues</li><li>• Head of School</li><li>• Other research and academic staff within the Institute and College</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Research collaborators</li><li>• Sponsors and clients</li><li>• Relevant Networks</li><li>• Affected rural and coastal communities</li><li>• Sector related organisations</li></ul> |



UNIVERSITY OF  
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## UNIVERSITY OF LINCOLN PERSON SPECIFICATION

|                  |  |                   |        |
|------------------|--|-------------------|--------|
| <b>JOB TITLE</b> | Post Doctoral Research Associate (spatial and structural determinants of rural and coastal health) | <b>JOB NUMBER</b> | CHS220 |
|------------------|--|-------------------|--------|

| Selection Criteria  | Essential (E) or Desirable (D) | Where Evidenced Application (A) Interview (I) Presentation (P) References (R) |
|---|--------------------------------|---|
| <b>Qualifications:</b>  |                                |   |
| PhD or equivalent in Geography or Public Health   | E                              | A   |
| Extensive knowledge of social and structural determinants of health and spatial inequalities                    | E                              | A/I   |
| <b>Experience:</b>  |                                |   |
| Extensive experience of mixed methods including GIS, spatial microsimulation, participatory qualitative methods | E                              | A/I   |
| Well developed statistical skills (e.g ArcGIS, R, STATA, SPSS)  | E                              | A/I   |
| Authorship of research outputs of national/international standing   | E                              | A/I   |
| Experience of agent-based modelling and systems-based approaches  | E                              | A/I   |
| Evidence of important contributions to securing research funding  | E                              | A/I   |
| Teaching support and postgraduate supervision   | D                              | A/I   |
| <b>Skills and Knowledge:</b>  |                                |   |
| Ability to design, conduct and project manage original research in the subject area                             | E                              | A/I   |
| Excellent written communication, including the ability to write reports and research outputs                    | E                              | A/I   |
| Ability to prioritise own workload and work to specified deadlines under pressure                               | E                              | A/I   |
| Ability to communicate complex subjects orally  | E                              | A/I   |
| Skills specific to project/area   | E                              | A/I   |
| <b>Competencies and Personal Attributes:</b>  |                                |   |
| Flexible approach to workload   | E                              | I   |
| Ability to work on own and as part of a team  | E                              | I   |
| Enthusiasm and commitment   | E                              | I   |
| <b>Business Requirements:</b>   |                                |   |
| Expectation to travel to rural and coastal locations  | E                              | A/I   |

**Essential Requirements** are those, without which, a candidate would not be able to do the job. **Desirable Requirements** are those which would be useful for the post holder to possess and will be considered when more than one applicant meets the essential requirements.

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|---------------|--------|------------|----|
| <b>Author</b> | SB, LS | <b>PBP</b> | AG |
|---------------|--------|------------|----|