



UNIVERSITY OF
LINCOLN

UNIVERSITY OF LINCOLN JOB DESCRIPTION

JOB TITLE	Community Researcher				
DEPARTMENT	Lincoln Institute for Rural and Coastal Health				
LOCATION	Lincoln Campuses				
JOB NUMBER	CHS258	GRADE	6	DATE	October 2025
REPORTS TO	Post Doctoral Research Associate				

CONTEXT

The University of Lincoln is looking for a friendly, enthusiastic person to join our team at the Lincoln Institute for Rural and Coastal Health (LIRCH) as a Community Researcher. This position is externally funded by Research England's Expanding Excellence in England fund as part of a £10.9 million grant awarded to the University of Lincoln.

We believe that communities have valuable lived experiences and insights that should help shape research and policies that directly affect them. That's why we're changing the way research is done, instead of doing research on communities, we want to do it with, for, and by communities. As a Community Researcher, you'll work alongside university staff and local people to make sure their voices are heard. You'll work closely with our principle investigators to identify funds, develop research bids, design research approaches that will include local communities and carry out research that makes a real difference to the health of people living in rural, coastal, and remote parts of Lincolnshire.

LIRCH is the first research centre in the UK focused entirely on rural and coastal health. Thanks to major new funding, we're growing fast, bringing together experts from many different areas to tackle health problems in our local communities. Together with local people and researchers, we want to co-create research that leads to lasting change. If you're passionate about your community and want to be part of something that creates real impact, we'd love to hear from you.

JOB PURPOSE

The role of Community Researcher will involve working closely with local people and organisations across rural and coastal Lincolnshire to gather insights and support research that reflects the priorities and needs of our communities. The Community Researcher will act as a bridge between the University of Lincoln and communities to ensure that research is inclusive, relevant, and capable of driving meaningful change. A Community Researcher is not expected to be the academic expert, but rather, a trusted voice within their communities who, with support and training, can carry out aspects of research and help amplify voices that are often underrepresented in traditional research settings.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

Community Engagement and Participation

The Community Researcher will be responsible for building and maintaining strong relationships with local individuals, groups, and organisations, with a particular focus on the rural and coastal regions of Lincolnshire. Acting as a pivotal link between the University of Lincoln, communities and wider organisations, they will promote research opportunities and actively engage in community participation. They will be a first point of contact and ongoing liaison in communities of interest and field enquiries directly to the academic team.

Community Representation & Inclusion

The Community Researcher will play a key role in representing community perspectives and priorities throughout all stages of the research process from conception and design to delivery and dissemination. This also includes identifying emerging issues, barriers, and opportunities through a community lens. They will also contribute to ensuring that research is accessible, inclusive, and culturally appropriate.

Funding Identification & Project Development

The Community Researcher will support the LIRCH academic team with exploration of funding income to strengthen research activity across the institute. They will provide insight from communities and their lived experience to support funding suitability decisions. The guidance and advice from the Community Researcher will feed directly into the development of project proposals for funding opportunities that the team identify.

Support Data Collection & Fieldwork

The Community Researcher will support research activities across LIRCH through engaging in co-design and active research approaches. They will also support researchers in conducting research (e.g. interviews, focus groups, surveys etc) within rural and coastal environments.

Research Dissemination

The Community Researcher will support researchers to ensure that research findings are shared in accessible, meaningful ways with both the community and partner organisations. This will include helping to translate complex information into clear, plain language and helping produce materials such as reports, infographics, or creative outputs tailored to different audiences. The community researcher may also support or lead events like workshops, presentations, or forums to share findings with local communities and/or organisations.

Marketing & Events

The Community Researcher will support academics in the delivery of community engagement events to support research activity include development and delivery of workshops to gain community insight, interviews with community members and presentation delivery to members of rural and coastal communities to increase participation in research. The Community Researcher will support LIRCH in the marketing and recruitment of community participants for LIRCH research and community engagement opportunities.

Evidencing & Impact
The Community Researcher will support LIRCH to capture evidence of community engagement and involvement in research and conduct supportive activities to contribute to measuring impact.
Training and Development
The Community Researcher will engage in training and development opportunities to ensure that you are well-equipped to support or carry out effective, impactful, and inclusive research. This may involve participating in formal training sessions on research methods, safeguarding, or confidentiality. It includes ongoing learning through workshops, peer support, reflective practice, and supervision.

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

Key working relationships/networks	
Internal	External
• LIRCH Director • LIRCH Academic staff • Policy, Impact & Engagement Officer • Senior Business Development Manager • LIRCH Project Manager • LIRCH Project Coordinator • LIRCH Administrators	• Research collaborators • Local stakeholders • Local communities/residents • Community organisations • Other stakeholders



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UNIVERSITY OF LINCOLN PERSON SPECIFICATION

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Selection Criteria	Essential (E) or Desirable (D)	Where Evidenced Application (A) Interview (I) Presentation (P) References (R)
Qualifications:		
No formal qualifications are required, although a background in community development/engagement may be advantageous	D	A
Willingness to undertake training in community engagement and research methods	E	A/I
Experience:		
Lived experience or close connection to rural and coastal communities	E	A/I
Experience engaging with community members, whether through paid work or volunteering	E	A/I
Experience in conducting/supporting research or community-based research	D	A/I
Involvement in community organisations, local projects or initiatives	D	A/I
Skills and Knowledge:		
Knowledge of the local area, culture, and issues affecting local communities	E	A/I
Good verbal and written communication skills, with ability to engage with range of audiences	E	A/I
Ability to listen actively and document information accurately	E	A/I
Basic understanding of research	D	A/I
Ability to use digital tools to for data collection or familiarity with basic data handling	D	A/I
Competencies and Personal Attributes:		
Respectful of different backgrounds, identities, and perspectives	E	A/I
Trustworthy, reliable, and enthusiastic about community engagement	E	A/I
Confident working independently as well as collaboratively as part of a team	E	A/I
Curious and open to learning, with willingness to participate in training and continued professional development	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.

Author	SC, AG, Collaboration and Knowledge Exchange group.	PBP	GPH
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