

Teaching Fellow in Human Geography

School of Geoscience

Closing date: 8 December 2021

Interview date: 15 December 2021

Reference number: GEO414A



Version: Sep21

INTRODUCTION

Teaching Fellow in Human Geography (full-time)

The Department of Geography and Environment seeks to appoint a full-time Teaching Fellow in Human Geography. The post is for a fixed term (5 months) tenable from January 6th 2022 until June 5th 2022.

The principal duties of the role will be to contribute to the undergraduate Human Geography curriculum, including delivering lectures, tutorials and other small group classes, and field courses. The post holder will also be expected to contribute to academic administrative duties.

The successful candidate will have a PhD in Human Geography or a cognate discipline, or evidence/experience of scholarly activity commensurate with such a qualification; ideally with a focus on the environment. They will be able to contribute to introductory and specialist Human Geography teaching. Ideally, candidates will have experience of undergraduate teaching and have the ability to respond enthusiastically and positively to students. Candidates should be able to work well as part of a team and be willing to work collaboratively with colleagues from other disciplines across the School and University.

Teaching and learning in Geography and Environment

According to the Complete University Guide 2022 Geography at Aberdeen is ranked 1st in Scotland and 6th in the UK (out of 71 institutions).

We offer MA and BSc undergraduate degree programmes, completed over four years. Students have the option of pursuing a general Geography degree or to specialise in either Human or Physical Geography. A sizable minority of undergraduates opt to take a Joint Honours degree. Research led teaching approach allows staff to introduce taught content aligned with their research interests at all levels of the undergraduate programme. Our Honours programme is structured such that the focus in Year 3 is upon skills, techniques and key concepts in the discipline and, in Year 4, option courses allow students to specialise in sub-areas of the discipline which align with our research strengths.

Three taught postgraduate degrees, all with growing student numbers, are offered by Geography and Environment. The MSc in *Geographical Information Systems (GIS)* is a very long established course that is currently undergoing an expansion. A Distance Learning pathway was introduced two years ago and is contributing to growth in student numbers. The programme delivers training in techniques and tools for acquiring, storing, processing, classifying, analysing and visualizing spatially referenced data, and their application to a physical, environmental and social challenges. The MSc programme in *Sustainability Transitions* focuses on the management of environmental partnerships for sustainability, training the next generation of leaders in social and environmental innovation and environmental enterprises in the green economy. The Masters in Land Economy *Rural Surveying and Rural Property Management* is a fast track 'conversion' programme for graduates seeking entry to the Rural Professional Group of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. It is the only programme of its kind in Scotland. Students develop expertise in rural land management, rural planning and development, land and property law, rural and environmental economics and valuation within the context of land-based industries.

The discipline is home to a vibrant research postgraduate community and our research students are able to take advantage of our membership of the ESRC funded Scottish Graduate School of Social Science Doctoral Training Partnership and the NERC funded *Quadrat* DTP, a collaboration involving Universities of Aberdeen and Queen's, Belfast.



An inclusive working environment

The School and the University are committed to promoting and maintaining an inclusive and supportive working environment that assists all members of our University community to reach their full potential. Diversity brings strength and we welcome applications from all genders and protected characteristics across the international, national and regional communities that we work with and serve.

JOB DESCRIPTION

MAIN PURPOSE OF THE ROLE:

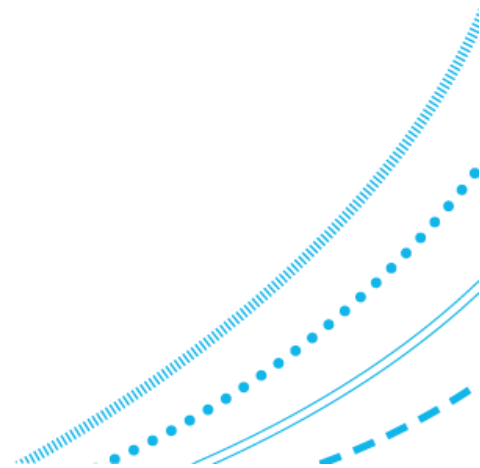
The principal duties of the role will be to contribute to the undergraduate Human Geography curriculum, including delivering lectures, tutorials and other small group classes and field courses. Depending on the skills and experience of the successful candidate, some postgraduate teaching may be required. The post holder will be expected to contribute to academic administrative duties.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- *Contribute to core and optional courses at undergraduate and, dependent on skills and experience, at taught postgraduate levels. Core duties will include delivering lectures, tutorials and other small group classes, field courses, and marking assessments and exams*
- *Undertake discipline/School related academic administrative activities, such as course administration and co-ordination, participation in exam boards, attending teaching-related discipline meetings, etc., as required.*

CANDIDATE BACKGROUND

- A PhD in Human Geography or a cognate discipline, or evidence/experience of scholarly activity commensurate with such a qualification; Ideally, with a focus on the environment
- Experience of having taught undergraduate students
- The ability to work well as part of a team in teaching and administrative contexts
- Excellent communication and presentation skills that can inspire students
- Familiarity with standard software (e.g., MS Office) required to support teaching and administration activities



TERMS OF APPOINTMENT

Salary will be at the spinal point 30 on the Grade 6 (£34,304 per annum).

Any appointment will be made subject to satisfactory references and probation period

For further information on various staff benefits and policies please visit www.abdn.ac.uk/staffnet/working-here

This role is based in the UK and as such the successful candidate will be required to live and work in the UK.

Due to the nature of the requirements of this post, homeworking is not considered appropriate

This post does not meet the minimum requirements for visa sponsorship under the Skilled Worker Route. We are therefore unable to consider applicants for this post that require sponsorship to work in the UK.



AT A GLANCE

SALARY:

Grade 6, spinal point 30

HOURS OF WORK:

37.5

CONTRACT TYPE:

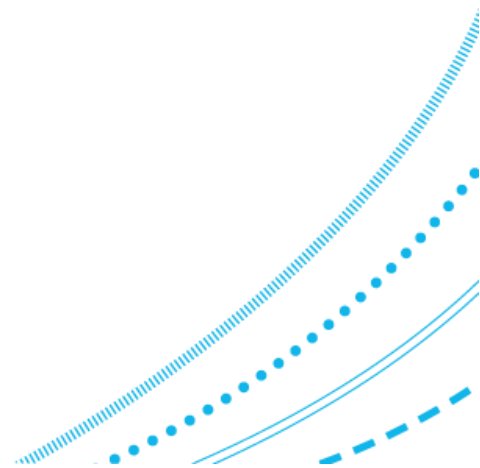
Project limited: available until 5th June 2022

LOCATION:

Aberdeen

PERSON SPECIFICATION

	ESSENTIAL	DESIRABLE
Education/Qualifications Academic, technical and professional education and training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A PhD in Human Geography or a cognate discipline, or evidence/experience of scholarly activity commensurate with such a qualification • Teaching experience at undergraduate and postgraduate levels. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PG Certificate in Higher Education or international equivalent qualification • An interest in environmental issues
Work and Other relevant experience (including training) e.g. Specialist knowledge, levels of experience, supervisory experience, research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of the field of Human Geography • Specialist knowledge in an area of Human Geography • Experience in the delivery of taught courses at undergraduate level • Willingness to coordinate courses if required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of course administration
Personal qualities and abilities e.g. initiative, leadership, ability to work on own or with others, communication skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possess excellent communication skills to support teaching of students from a diverse range of backgrounds • Be willing to contribute, professionally and otherwise, to the life of the Discipline, School and the University • Be able to work independently and as part of teaching team. • Ability to respond enthusiastically and positively to students 	
Other e.g. special circumstances (if any) appropriate to the role such as unsocial hours, travelling, Gaelic language requirements etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be prepared to (occasionally) travel and work away from campus, for example on residential fieldtrips 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full UK driver's licence



UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN

open to all and dedicated to the pursuit of truth in the service of others

The University of Aberdeen is a broad based, research intensive University, and we put students at the centre of everything we do. Outstanding in a wide range of discipline areas, Aberdeen is credited for its international reach and commercialisation of research ideas into spin out companies. The University has over 16,000 matriculated students and 3,600 staff representing 130 nationalities. We encourage bold thinking, creativity and innovation, and we nurture ambition with many opportunities for professional and personal development in an inclusive learning environment which challenges and inspires.

<p>— 2019 —</p> <p>SCOTTISH UNIVERSITY</p> <p>— OF THE YEAR —</p>	<p>TOP 20 UK UNIVERSITY</p> <p>Guardian University Guide 2021</p>	<p>12th & 57th</p> <p>IN THE UK & GLOBALLY</p> <p><i>for positive impact on society*</i></p>
<p>1st</p> <p>IN SCOTLAND</p> <p><i>for Science Collaboration**</i></p>	<p>180</p> <p><i>World top ***</i></p>	<p>75%</p> <p><i>of research classified as</i></p> <p>WORLD LEADING****</p>

* THE Impact Rankings 2021 ** CWTS Leiden 2020 *** Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2021 **** In-line with the 2014 Research Excellence Framework (REF) results

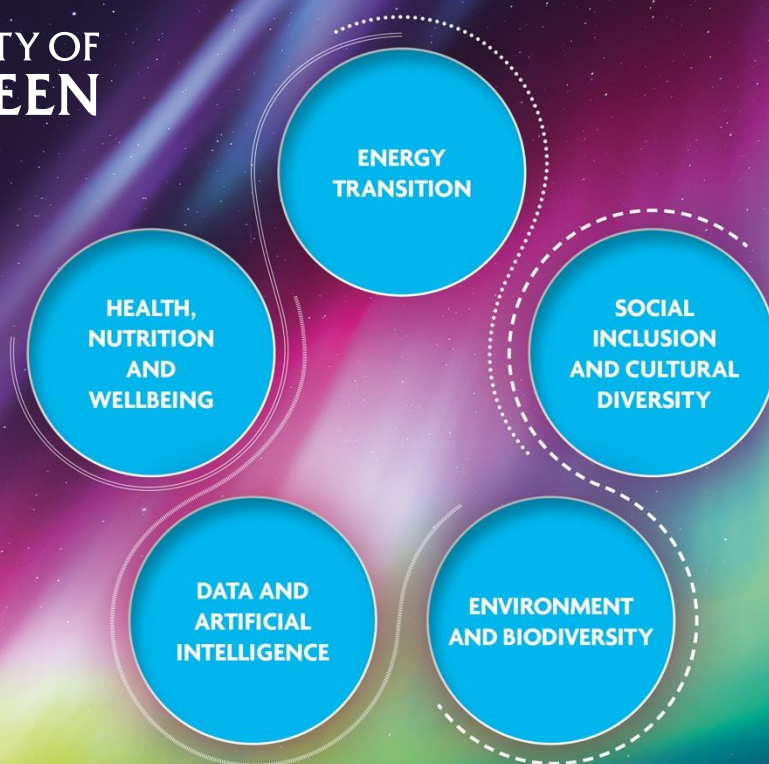
CURRENT CONTEXT

The University continues to build on its achievements. Underpinning our high performance and significant growth is a £100m investment in Aberdeen's estate which will include the completion of a new Science Teaching Hub, the regeneration of the historic King's Quarter and a new Business School building. The University has also invested in 50 new academic posts and in 2020 launched five interdisciplinary, cross-institution Research Centres that will catalyse world-leading research in our areas of strength. Our five Interdisciplinary Challenges are: Energy Transition; Social Inclusion and Cultural Diversity; Environment and Biodiversity; Data and Artificial Intelligence; and Health, Nutrition and Wellbeing.

ABERDEEN 2040

On our 525th anniversary as a University we launched [Aberdeen 2040](#), our strategic vision for the next 20 years. Four strategic themes will shape our learning and discovery, underlined by 20 commitments we have made against each theme:

- **Inclusive**
We welcome students, staff and partners from all backgrounds, organisations and communities. We value diversity.
- **Interdisciplinary**
We innovate in education and research by generating, sharing and applying new kinds of knowledge. We learn together.
- **International**
We connect with others and extend our networks and partnerships around the world. We think across borders.
- **Sustainable**
We understand and nurture our environment, and take care of our resources, including our people and finances. We work responsibly.



OUR EDUCATION

Recognised as the Scottish University of the Year in the Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2019, we remain true to our roots as an ancient Scottish university, combining breadth and depth in our degree programmes and drawing strength from the quality of our research. Our flexible curriculum encourages students to grow as independent learners and therefore to thrive as graduates in the diverse workplaces of the future. Our education is open to all and we are setting ambitious targets to further widen access.

OUR RESEARCH

Researchers at the University of Aberdeen have been at the forefront of innovation and excellence throughout the centuries, generating insights in medicine, science, engineering, law, social sciences, arts and humanities. This research has contributed to five Nobel prizes as well as other awards such as the Queen's Anniversary prize. Our research is intellectually rigorous working within our established areas of excellence as well as new methods of enquiry. We will continue to generate new knowledge addressing economic and societal issues with ambition and imagination, ensuring that it is globally excellent and locally relevant.

INTERNATIONAL

Aberdeen is increasing its international presence, positioning the University as a global organisation and building on established global partnerships in e.g. Qatar, China, North America, Europe. We feature in the top 50 institutions worldwide for international students¹ and have been named 32nd in the world for International Outlook². The University of Aberdeen is proud to be the first UK University to operate on a dedicated campus in Qatar. Phase 1 of this partnership with AFG College has successfully recruited over 600 students. Phase 2 will see the creation of a substantially larger campus, with capacity for at least 5,000 students and research activity. For further information on our Qatar campus visit www.abdn.ac.uk/qatar.

IMPACT

Our dedication to building a sustainable future is reflected in the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2021 where we were ranked in the top 60 Universities worldwide for positive impact on society.

In 2020 the University signed the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals accord, solidifying our commitment to developing the world in a sustainable way. In 2021 we were listed in the global Top 50 for 6 of these goals and in the UK Top 20 for all 17³.

¹ Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2021

² QS World University Rankings 2021

³ Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2021



ABERDEEN AND ABERDEENSHIRE

Scotland's third largest city, Aberdeen sits on the coast between the mountains of Aberdeenshire and the stunning North Sea coastline. The Aberdeen City region is a can-do place that is actively investing, at scale, in its future.

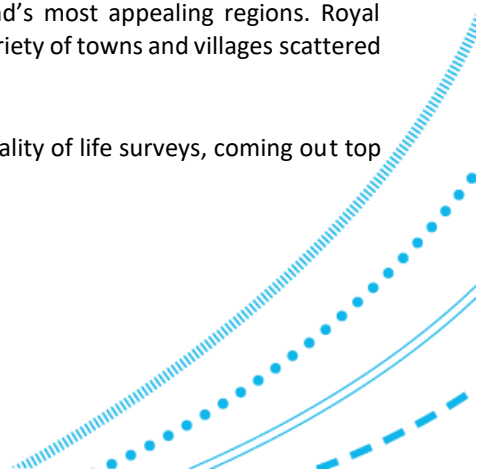
Renowned as a Global Energy Hub, Aberdeen is a vibrant, entrepreneurial region, home to a unique mix of business opportunities and specialist skills across various sectors including energy, technology, life sciences and food & drink. More than 20% of Scotland's top businesses are located in this region which is taking great strides to ensure that it continues to compete on a world stage. Investments of more than £10 billion of public and private infrastructure is due to be delivered before 2030, marking an exciting time to be part of a genuine world-class location.

Built from sparkling local granite Aberdeen has earned the name of the Silver City. As the energy capital of Europe, Aberdeen nevertheless retains its old-fashioned charm and character making it an attractive place in which to live, work and study. Due to its global business and international energy industry credentials, Aberdeen is well served by local and national transport infrastructure with excellent rail networks that run both North and South of Scotland and the rest of the UK. It also acts as an international travel hub. Flying time to London is just over one hour with regular daily flights and serves international travel to European centres such as Amsterdam (Schiphol) and Paris (Charles de-Gaulle) as well as flights to other European destinations.

The City and the surrounding countryside provide a variety of urban, seaside and country attractions. Aberdeen has first class amenities including [His Majesty's Theatre](#), [Music Hall](#), [Art Gallery](#), [the P&J Arena](#), [Museums](#), and [Beach Leisure Centre](#). The City is framed by its accessible beach front which is within a short walk of the city centre and there are an array of activities available across the region such as hill walking; mountaineering; sailing; surfing; salmon, trout and sea fishing; golf; sailing; surfing and windsurfing. The surrounding countryside, known as Aberdeenshire, is also one of Scotland's most appealing regions. Royal Deeside and the Cairngorms National Park are within easy access of the city, and there are a variety of towns and villages scattered along the coastline.

The city and the surrounding area have ranked consistently highly in nationally recognised quality of life surveys, coming out top 10 as one of the best places to live in Scotland in 2020 in the annual Bank of Scotland survey.

To find out more visit www.visitabdn.com



EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

The University values a diverse working environment and recognises the benefits this can bring. The University is keen to receive applications from individuals from across all of the equality protected characteristics (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation).

The University supports opportunities for flexible working for a range of reasons and has policies in place to facilitate this. The policies can be found at <https://www.abdn.ac.uk/staffnet/working-here/flexible-working--5607.php>.

The University's commitment to gender equality has been recognised through the achievement of an Athena SWAN Bronze award at an institutional level and across all its subject areas. The University is also a Stonewall Diversity Champion to further LGBT+ equality.

The University is signed up to Advance HE's Race Equality Charter, affirming the University's commitment to the charter's aim of improving the representation, progression and success of minority ethnic staff and students within higher education.

Candidates who are British Sign Language (BSL) users can contact us directly by using [contact SCOTLAND-BSL](#).

The University is delighted to be accredited as a [Disability Confident](#) employer and strives to ensure that disabled staff and students have the opportunity to work and study in an inclusive, accessible and supportive environment.

www.abdn.ac.uk/staffnet/governance/equality-and-diversity-277

HOW TO APPLY

Online application forms are available at www.abdn.ac.uk/jobs

The closing date for receipt of applications is 8 December 2021

Interviews will be held on 15 December 2021

Should you wish to make an informal enquiry please contact:

Prof. Matteo Spagnolo

01224 273034

m.spagnolo@abdn.ac.uk

Please do **not** send application forms or CVs to Prof. Matteo Spagnolo.

Please quote reference number **GEO414A** on all correspondence