

INTERDISCIPLINARY FELLOWS

Closing date: 16 October 2022
Interview date: To be confirmed
Reference number: VP014A



INTRODUCTION

The University of Aberdeen is an internationally recognised centre for excellence for research addressing the global challenges of energy transition and security, biodiversity loss and climate change, social inequality and cultural diversity, improving health, nutrition and well-being, and emerging technologies in data and artificial intelligence. Our research crosses the broad themes of understanding across these global challenges.

In 2020, the University launched Aberdeen 2040 (its 20 years strategy which has interdisciplinary thinking at its heart), with an explicit commitment to directly address these global challenges through an interdisciplinary lens. The five Interdisciplinary Challenge Areas will bring together experts in multi-disciplinary groups to research and develop innovative solutions to these global issues. To achieve this, we will work in partnership across all 12 academic schools and with external stakeholders in government, industry and the third sector.

Our Interdisciplinary commitments include:

- Supporting a learning culture in which all our staff and students can exchange ideas and expertise across intellectual areas and organisational structures
- Building networks across our community to foster interdisciplinary interactions between our subject research strengths, using and sharing expertise to drive new understanding
- Listening to and work with external stakeholders regionally and globally to build partnerships that deliver imaginative solutions to societal and industrial challenges
- Developing our digital systems and enhance our buildings to create virtual and physical spaces that enable interdisciplinary exchange and innovation
- Designing new courses and programmes which encourage interdisciplinary learning, and ensure that all our students can experience innovative, challenge-led education involving external stakeholders

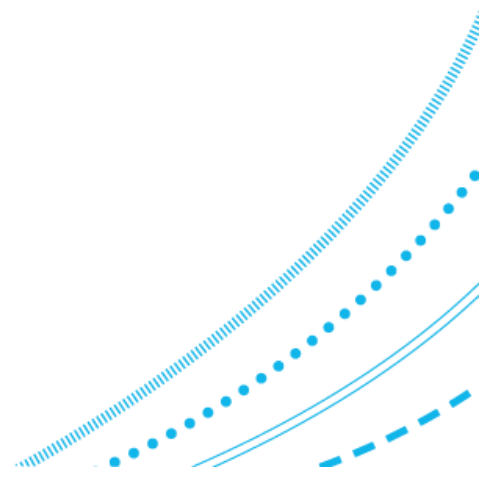
An Inclusive Working Environment

The University is 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.

Our university is open to all. We welcome staff and students of all backgrounds, and will connect with our communities and partners, locally, nationally and internationally. Our commitment to inclusion will guide our education, our research, and the projects we deliver.

We aspire to lead our sector in promoting health and well-being, and celebrating diversity.

More information on the Interdisciplinary Challenges is available by clicking on the link:
<https://www.abdn.ac.uk/2040/interdisciplinary-challenges/index.php>



JOB DESCRIPTION

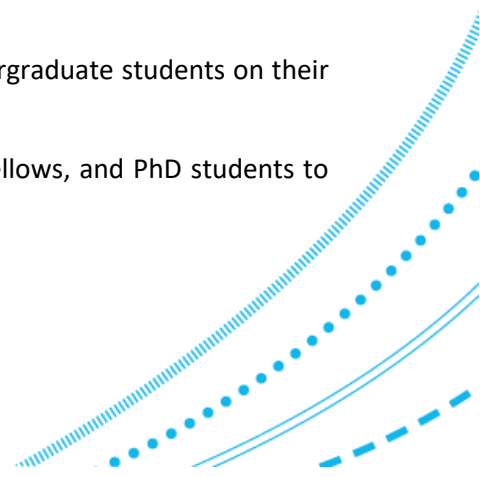
MAIN PURPOSE OF THE ROLE:

We are seeking to build a cohort of early career academic fellows who address significant global challenges by working across the boundaries of traditional academic disciplines. You will bring an excellent track record of research and/or innovation that applies specialist academic expertise to major global challenges within an interdisciplinary framework. As an emerging leader in your field, you will feel inspired to develop and expand your research programme through collaboration with colleagues associated with the interdisciplinary Challenge Areas and the academic schools at the University of Aberdeen, alongside external partners as appropriate. You will contribute to the development of the Interdisciplinary pillar of the University's 20-year strategic vision, Aberdeen 2040, engaging with other members of the five Interdisciplinary Challenge Areas as well as colleagues within the academic schools relevant to your research programme. Academic fellows will be affiliated with one or more schools and will have access to the specialist research facilities that they house.

These academic fellowships are established for five years in the first instance with an expectation that post-holders will then transition to substantive teaching and research posts at the University of Aberdeen, subject to satisfactory completion of progression milestones. Academic fellows will be given an opportunity to focus on development of their research for the first two years, after which there will be an expectation of a gradual increase in responsibility for the development and delivery of inter-disciplinary education within one or more of the schools. After five years they will become full members of their affiliated school(s) and will undertake the research and teaching duties of an established member of staff in consultation with the assigned Heads of School.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Design, deliver and disseminate world-leading impactful research that aligns with the interdisciplinary thematic areas, under the guidance and mentorship of senior academics, such as the Interdisciplinary Directors and senior academics from the schools
- Lead and participate in the development of competitive interdisciplinary bids that can attract external funding from UK and International funders, such as UKRI, Leverhulme, charities, EU, industry, and others
- Participate in and organise events to promote interdisciplinarity across the University and externally, which will align with the interdisciplinary research themes
- Develop partnerships and collaborate with colleagues from across schools and external stakeholders as part of normal academic activities
- Support, mentor, and co-lead the supervision of PhD, postgraduate and undergraduate students on their interdisciplinary projects
- Actively engage with the Interdisciplinary Directors, other Interdisciplinary Fellows, and PhD students to form a strong interdisciplinary cohort
- Act as advocate of interdisciplinarity to internal and External audiences



- Participate, if relevant, in external events organised by funders, government, and other bodies
- Participate in training events and other career development activities
- Support teaching and scholarship activities across schools and contribute to the development of interdisciplinary courses

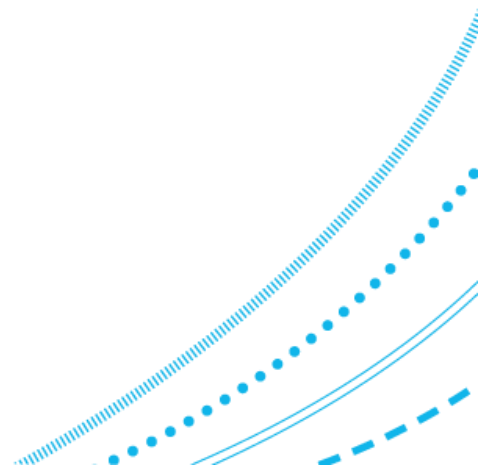
CANDIDATE BACKGROUND

We seek to appoint dynamic, collegial, and creative individuals who wish to embrace the opportunities of interdisciplinary research. Applicants should be ambitious in their vision for interdisciplinary research and education, be able to build on the University's existing internal and external networks, further develop the research culture, and be prepared to contribute to change to meet the requirements of students, staff, research funders and the organisations we interact with. We welcome applicants with a background in any fields that interact and align with our five interdisciplinary challenge areas.

Applications from all fields are welcome but they must align with at least one of the Aberdeen 2040 Interdisciplinary Challenge Areas and Schools (please find more information here: <https://www.abdn.ac.uk/research/>). Themed research areas that we wish to recruit for and that fellows should align with include, but are not limited to, the following:

- **Energy Transition:** The challenge to decarbonise and reduce greenhouse gas emissions; Renewable Technologies e.g. offshore wind, geothermal, hydrogen, CCUS (including for extending the life of mature basins); Energy Security and the Role of Oil & Gas in a Net Zero World; Offshore Urban Planning and Regulation; A Just Transition for all;
- **Environment and Biodiversity:** Nature-based Solutions to Global Change; Environment, Health and agri-Food Systems; Environmental Analytics; and Education for Sustainability.
- **Health, Nutrition and Wellbeing:** Food and Nutrition Security aligned with Planetary Health; Future Healthcare; Digitalisation in Healthcare Systems; Health and Wellbeing in Changing Societies.
- **Social Inclusion and Cultural Diversity:** Inclusive and equitable approaches to economic recovery; Cultural and creative Industries; Arts & Health; Cultural engagement and participation; Cultural Policy and Placemaking.
- **Data and AI:** Data-Centric and Green AI Systems; Human-Centred AI and Autonomous Agents; Digital Innovation and Privacy-enhanced Technologies; Digital Twins with Machine Learning.

It is anticipated that we will recruit in all the above areas.



TERMS OF APPOINTMENT

Salary will be at the appropriate point on Grade 7, £43,414 - £51,805 per annum, and negotiable with placement according to qualifications and experience.

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.

The candidate appointed to this post may be eligible for homeworking on a regular or permanent basis. For more information please refer to our Homeworking Policy. Please note that where permanent homeworking is approved there will still be a requirement to work at a University location from time to time, albeit on an infrequent basis.

Should you require a visa to undertake employment in the UK you will be required to fulfil the minimum points criteria to be granted a Certificate of Sponsorship under the requirements of the Skilled Worker visa. At the time an offer of appointment is made, you will be asked to demonstrate that you fulfil the criteria in respect of qualification and competency in English. For research and academic posts, we will consider eligibility under the Global Talent visa. Please do not hesitate to contact Patrycja Bromm, HR Adviser (Graduate Trainee) (e-mail: patrycja.bromm@abdn.ac.uk) for further information.

AT A GLANCE

SALARY:

Grade 7

HOURS OF WORK:

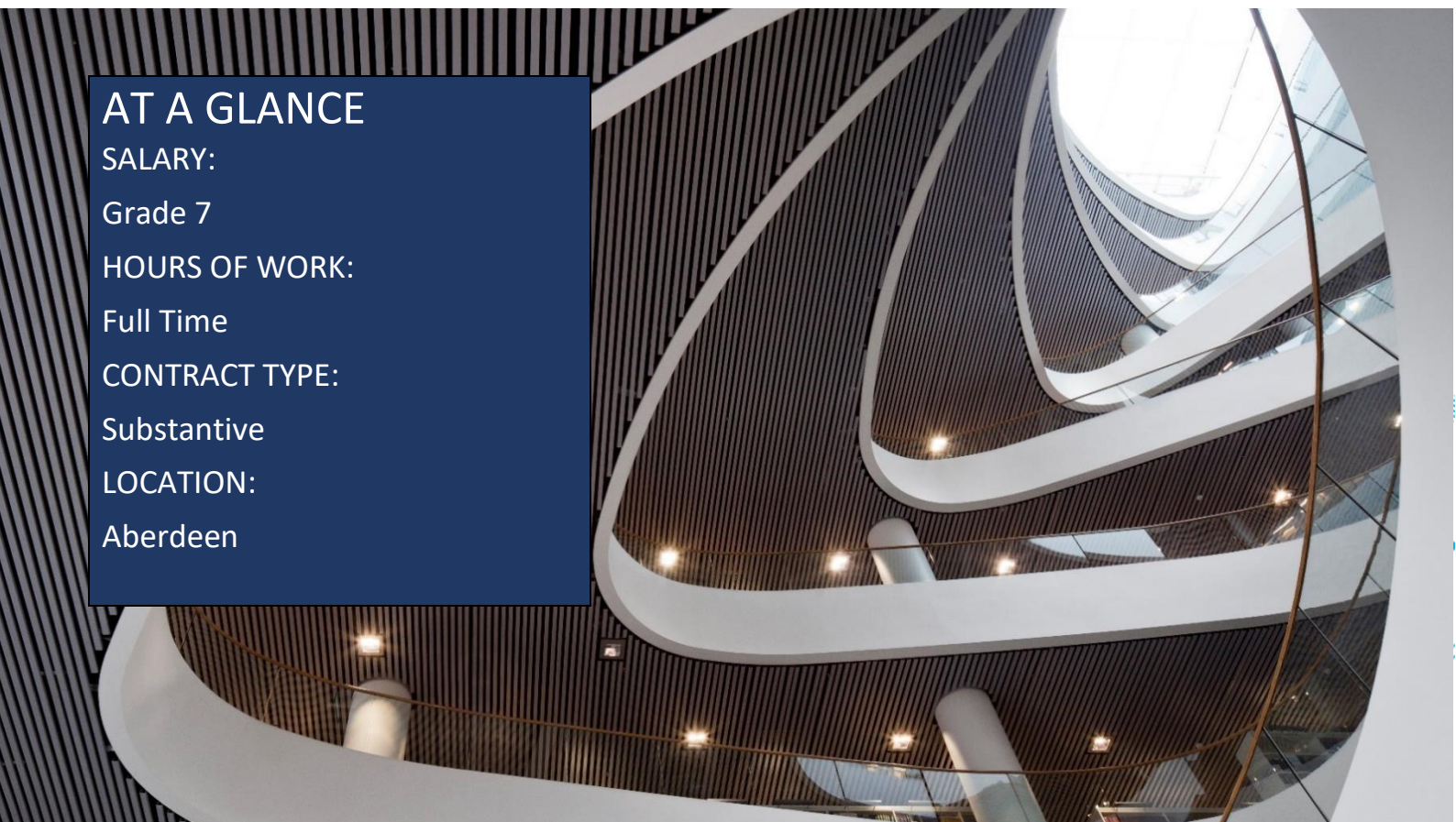
Full Time

CONTRACT TYPE:

Substantive

LOCATION:

Aberdeen



PERSON SPECIFICATION

	ESSENTIAL	DESIRABLE
Education/Qualifications Academic, technical and professional education and training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PhD in a related area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PG Certificate in Higher Education or international equivalent qualification Associate Fellowship of the UK Higher Education Academy or equivalent
Work and Other relevant experience (including training) e.g. Specialist knowledge, levels of experience, supervisory experience, research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experience working with external stakeholders and colleagues from a diverse range of disciplines Experience of successful development and delivery of interdisciplinary research and/or innovation Evidence of being active in the wider professional sphere by, for example, active in professional societies or associations encouraging academic achievement A current track record of internationally recognised research in a relevant subject area, appropriate to career stage; a commitment to continuing on this pathway Experience of supervising students Track record in publishing high quality peer review academic papers Established postdoctoral experience Experience of working in an interdisciplinary context as a researcher 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International recognition amongst the wider academic community - e.g. keynote lectures at major conferences, research visits to world-leading institutions, national and international awards, etc. Track record of teaching in Higher Education and a commitment to maintain this activity Member of editorial boards or grant awarding bodies Evidence of the impact of research Previous submission to REF
Personal qualities and abilities e.g. initiative, leadership, ability to work on own or with others, communication skills	Qualities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ability and experience of work as part of a team as well as motivated to work individually 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ability to encourage innovative approaches to teaching & research

ESSENTIAL

DESIRABLE

- Excellent interpersonal skills
- Appreciation of working with other disciplines and diverse range of stakeholders from academia, industry, government and other sectors
- Ability to work effectively in a busy and highly evolving environment
- A strong commitment to equality, diversity, and inclusion
- Ability to communicate complex and conceptual ideas to those from different disciplines and to lay audiences

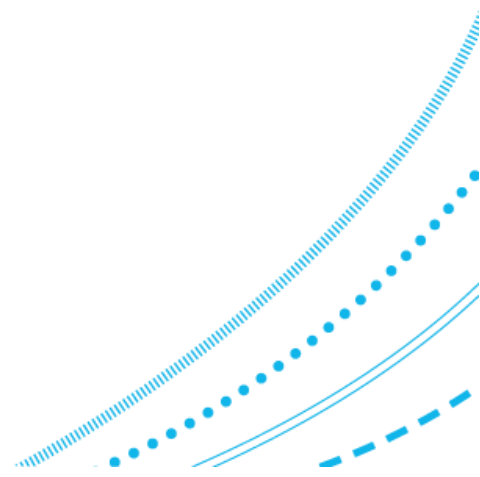
Abilities

- Effective organisational and communication skills
- Ability to demonstrate a collegiate, team-working approach
- Ability to develop collaborative networks, both internally and externally

Other

e.g. special circumstances (if any) appropriate to the role such as unsocial hours, travelling, Gaelic language requirements etc.

- Willingness to travel and participate in external events and visits
- Willingness to provide reports and update to the development Trust and donors



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.



CURRENT CONTEXT

The University continues to uphold the principals of the foundational purpose. We remain committed to delivering positive change both locally and globally. We work together and with our partners in an interdisciplinary way, catalysing world-leading research in our areas of strength: Energy Transition; Social Inclusion and Cultural Diversity; Environment and Biodiversity; Data and Artificial Intelligence; and Health, Nutrition and Wellbeing. We are investing in our future and have committed £100m to upgrading our campus, including the new fully digitised Science Teaching Hub, the regeneration of the historic King's Quarter and a new Business School building. Our commitment to our students, campus and community has led to us being named a Top 20 UK institution in two major league tables¹ and 4th in the UK for overall student satisfaction².

¹ The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2022 and the Guardian University Guide 2022

² National Student Survey (NSS) 2022

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.

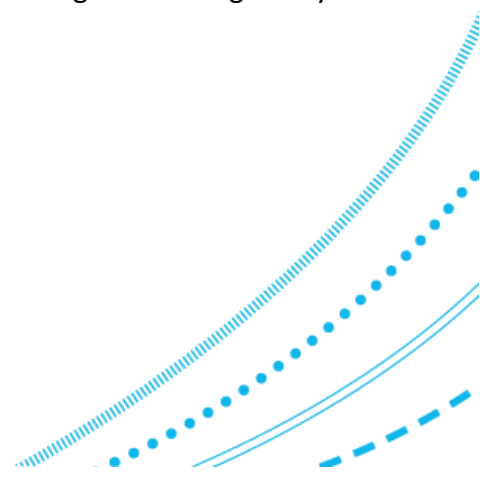
We work responsibly.

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 around the world, including Qatar, China, North America, Europe. We feature in the top 50 institutions worldwide for international students³.

IMPACT

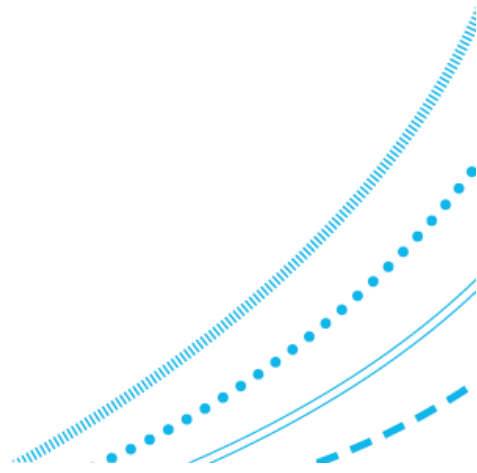
In 2020 the University signed the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals accord, solidifying our commitment to developing the world in a sustainable way. In 2022 we were listed in the global Top 100 for 8 of these goals⁴.

Our highly cited work in zero-carbon technology and global outlooks makes us Scotland's best institution for environmental research⁵.

³ Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2021

⁴ Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2022

⁵ QS World University Rankings 2022



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.

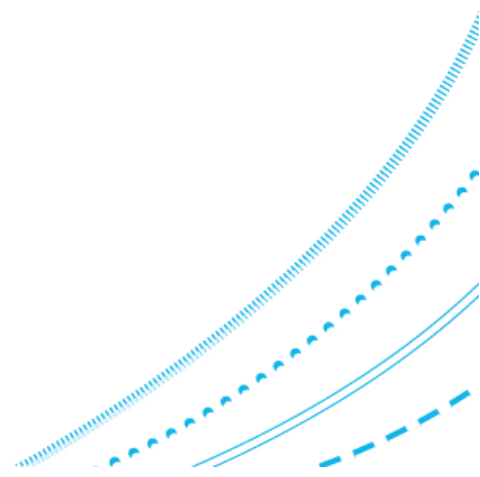
Renowned as a Global Energy Hub, Aberdeen is a vibrant, entrepreneurial region, home to a unique mix of business opportunities and specialist skills across various sectors including energy, technology, life sciences and food & drink. More than 20% of Scotland's top businesses are located in this region 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

You are required to submit a cover letter, which will outline your motivation, fit to the role, and a brief research plan for the next 3 years. In addition, please highlight which interdisciplinary challenge area(s) and research themed areas identified previously you are primarily applying under. Considering you will also be affiliated with one or more schools, please mention which school(s) align more with your background, expertise, and interests (list of schools: <https://www.abdn.ac.uk/about/schools-institutes/>)

The closing date for receipt of applications is **16 October 2022**

Should you wish to make an informal enquiry please contact:

Prof. John Underhill (Energy Transition), john.underhill@abdn.ac.uk

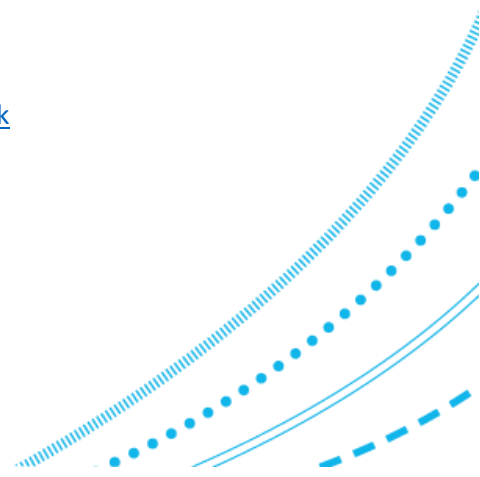
Prof. David Burslem (Environment and Biodiversity), d.burslem@abdn.ac.uk

Prof. Jennie Macdiarmid (Health, Nutrition and Wellbeing), j.macdiarmid@abdn.ac.uk

Prof. Ele Belfiore (Social Inclusivity and Cultural Diversity), e.belfiore@abdn.ac.uk

Dr Georgios Leontidis (Data & AI), georgios.leontidis@abdn.ac.uk

Please do not send application forms or CVs to the Interdisciplinary Directors.



1495



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Please quote reference number VP014A on all correspondence.

