



**Postdoctoral
Research
Assistant in
reducing
inequalities,
third sector
resilience
and fostering
political
participation**

About the Role

The post holder will be required to take an active role in research focusing on reducing inequalities, third sector resilience and fostering democratic governance and political participation. The research involves four countries (US, UK, Canada and Poland) and in the UK the focus is on Greater Manchester. It employs both quantitative and qualitative methods and uses organisational theories, organisational behaviour theories, sociological theories, and democratic theories, with a focus on adaptive capacity, inter-organizational relations, performance, and bureaucratic responsiveness. The post holder will need to have knowledge of good social sciences research techniques including data protection issues and will be experienced in quantitative data collection and analysis. They will be expected to help organise and attend regular project team meetings and help to support project dissemination, for example via maintain a project web page.

Reward & Benefits

We want you to feel happy when you come to work and proud when you go home. From the moment you join us you have the opportunity to enhance your skills. We offer a range of specialist development sessions and academic development opportunities along with an award winning and comprehensive staff health & wellbeing programme (HR Excellence Awards 2017). This means you will receive a full academic induction, be enrolled if appropriate on our PGCTHE, benefit from the Edge Hill University CPD scheme (UKPSF) and our annual University Learning and Teaching day all to support your professional development.

This is just a taste of what we are able to offer you at Edge Hill University.

About Us

Edge Hill University is an ambitious institution, based on an attractive, award-winning 160-acre campus in Lancashire, close to Liverpool and Manchester. The University aspires to combine excellent research of reach and significance with a world-class student experience.

Edge Hill University was named Modern University of the Year in the Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2022 and shortlisted for the overall UK University of the Year award. With this award the University was called 'one of the shining stars of the modern university sector.' The award has come closely after Edge Hill was awarded University of the Year in the Educate North Awards 2020/21.

Edge Hill University appears in the Times Higher Global Rankings (801-1000) and has previously held the coveted UK University of the Year title, awarded by Times Higher Education in 2014/2015.

Other recent successes include a Global Teaching Excellence Spotlight Award (2018) from Advance HE in association with Times Higher Education, being ranked in the top 10 for teaching by the Times/Sunday Times Good University Guide 2017, top in the North West for student experience (Times Higher Education 2017), and top in the UK for student accommodation in the 2017 WhatUni Awards.

Edge Hill University has achieved both Athena Swan Bronze and the European Commission's 'HR Excellence in Research Award' (first awarded 2018 and reawarded 2021), which acknowledges alignment with the principles of the European Charter for Researchers and Code of Conduct for researcher recruitment. The process incorporates both the QAA Code of Practice for Research Degree Programmes and the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers.

Specific duties and responsibilities

The post holder will be expected to:

- a) Engage positively in research activity in the broad area of reducing inequalities, third sector resilience and fostering democratic governance and political participation, using both qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis under the direction of the project lead/principal investigator and co-investigator.
- b) Complete high quality research in the area of social policy and associated subject areas, leading on quantitative elements of the project, under the direction of the PI/CI.
- c) Co-author and publish research outputs with the project team in leading peer-reviewed journals with an international audience.
- d) Effectively disseminate research findings at internal and external scientific meetings and conferences, making research accessible to lay and expert audiences.
- e) Engage with relevant academic and professional networks through active membership of societies, associations etc.

- f) Contribute to the development of effective applications for research funding from both research councils and other external sources in collaboration with the project lead/principal investigator and others.
- g) Explore opportunities for enterprise activity, knowledge exchange income and/or consultancy in this and related areas.
- h) Contribute to the delivery of teaching at undergraduate and taught postgraduate level.
- i) Assist in the supervision of third year undergraduate dissertation students and taught Masters within the area of research expertise.
- j) Ensure that their skills and technical competence are kept under review and enhanced where required to enable them to utilise specialist equipment and software used in the research projects.
- k) Assist in the development of the research skills of postgraduate students; for example, as part of a postgraduate supervisory team and/or through the delivery of practical workshops.
- l) Contribute to relevant departmental and research group meetings.
- m) Undertake additional duties, as required by the project lead/principal investigator or Head of Department.

In addition to the above, all Edge Hill staff are required to:

- a)** Adhere to all Edge Hill's policies and procedures, including Equality and Diversity and Health and Safety
- b)** Respect confidentiality: all confidential information should be kept in confidence and not released to unauthorised persons
- c)** Undertake appropriate training and development as required
- d)** Participate in Edge Hill's Performance Review and Development Scheme

- e)** Adhere to Edge Hill University's environmental policy and guidelines and undertake tasks in a sustainable manner
- f)** To demonstrate excellent Customer Care in dealing with all internal and external stakeholders

Person Specification

Please note that all applications will be assessed against the Person Specification using the following criteria:

		Essential	Desirable	Method of Assessment (A,S,I,T,P)
Qualifications				
1.	PhD in Social Sciences/ Social Policy	*		A
Knowledge & Experience				
2.	Detailed understanding and knowledge of good Social Sciences research techniques including data protection issues, quantitative data collection, data entry (using SPSS or similar) and analysis	*		S/I
3.	Previous experience of conducting high quality research involving quantitative methods	*		S/I
4.	Experience of publishing high quality academic peer reviewed articles	*		S
5.	Experience of working in the Higher Education sector		*	A
6.	Experience of working in multi-disciplinary research		*	S/I
7.	Knowledge of the processes involved in preparing and submitting research funding proposals		*	S/I
8.	Experience of teaching undergraduates and postgraduates, including supervising research projects		*	S/I
Skills & Abilities				
9.	Able to communicate new and complex information effectively, both verbally and in writing, engaging the interest and enthusiasm of the target audience (both lay and expert)	*		S/I

10.	Able to present research results at department meetings and conferences	*		I/P
11.	Able to work on own initiative, organising and prioritising work effectively to meet deadlines	*		S/I
12.	A self-starter, able to work independently and without supervision as well as part of a team	*		S/I
13.	Ability to operate flexibly and reliably, adapting to change as required	*		S/I
14.	Able to develop and maintain effective working relationships at all levels	*		S/I
15.	Able to work within ethical guidelines and maintain high levels of research integrity at all times.	*		S/I

***Method of Assessment (A-Application, S-Supporting Statement, I-Interview, T-Test, P-Presentation)**

Candidate guidance

When you are ready to start the formal application process, please visit www.edgehill.ac.uk/jobs and click 'vacancies', search for the role you wish to apply for, and click 'Apply Online'. The online application form can be completed in stages and can be revisited at any time. The form automatically saves as you enter your information and it is simple to move backwards and forwards throughout at any time prior to submission. Help is available at each stage to guide you through the form. Before final submission, you can preview your application and can then choose to refine or submit the form.

About the Selection Process

Following the closing date, we will contact you by email to let you know whether or not you have been shortlisted to participate in the next stage of the selection process. We try our best to inform applicants within two working weeks following the closing date.

Please note, DBS checks will be carried out at any point during your employment if your work requires this.

Salary

Terms and conditions of employment: will be those for Grade 7.

Grade 7. Points 27-30.

Salary for this grade: £32,348-£35,333 per annum

We look forward to receiving your application and thank you for your interest in the role.