

JOB DESCRIPTION
Research Associate,
MANY (Mobile Access North Yorkshire) PROJECT
Vacancy Ref: A3052

Job Title: Research Associate	Present Grade: 6
Department/College: Entrepreneurship and Strategy, Management School	
Directly responsible to: Professor Katy Mason	
Supervisory responsibility for: N/A	
Other contacts Internal: Other staff members within the MANY project team in Lancaster, within the Lancaster University Management School (LUMS) and other project stakeholders External: Entrepreneurs, SMEs, researchers, policymakers, government departments, local government authorities, research and funding bodies within the UK (including North Yorkshire County Council, Quickline, FloCulture, CyberMoor)	
<p>This new high-profile role will be an important member of the research team for the Rural Connected Communities Research Partnerships, Funded by the Department of Digital Culture, Media and Sport.</p> <p>The project is a collaboration between Lancaster University and York University and project partners, Quickline, Cybermoor, FloCulture and North Yorkshire County Council.</p> <p>Background:</p> <p>This project aims at designing, developing, and implementing digital connectivity in rural areas where communities have become depleted, and families move away because they can't run businesses or make a living easily without digital connectivity. With this proposed action research, the team seeks to develop 'action measures' (measures used in practice to transform patterned action) and support the development of accompanying market-making processes, at the individual and organizational and communal level. These measures will be developed: 1) with communities, to bring about the kinds of changes their community wants; 2) be aggregated, so that use case impact and change can be assessed; 3) be aggregated, so cross use-case comparison is possible; 4) be aggregated so socio-economic impact in a particular place (community) can be assessed. The incumbent will also help to develop work on the commercialization of each use case and the rural connectivity offer itself. This project is specifically targeted at rural communities in north Yorkshire. The project is framed around four use cases: 1) tourism; 2) health and wellbeing; 3) infrastructure management (Yorkshire suffers a lot of flooding and bridge and road management and monitoring is critical to the safety and wellbeing of citizens), and 4) Emergency services support (working with Mountain Rescue to support connectivity for remote rescue). The aim is to create digitally connected communities that have flourishing socio-economic lives in a specific place.</p> <p>Major Duties:</p> <p>The post holder will play a leading role in the project. This will involve investigating: understanding what local communities and key stakeholders within those communities want and need; community market-making and associated learning; entrepreneurship support policy; rural and context-specific entrepreneurship; entrepreneurial networks; and related concepts. The focus throughout will be on the use case stakeholder's specific needs. The incumbent will lead the impact assessment, benchmarking and progress assessment work, and commercial case development. A good understanding of practice theory and performativity theory would help with this work.</p> <p>Research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To support the principal investigator and senior collaborators. To participate in undertaking research and action research in the areas of knowledge exchange, innovation, networks, impact and entrepreneurial learning, in close collaboration with other members of the project team and related stakeholders. 	

- To contribute fully to the wider activities of the project that ensure the integration of research across work-packages, partner organisations and academic disciplines.
- To support Yorkshire-based residents and integrating research projects (working on 6-month collaboration projects based on other Rural Connected Communities initiatives (also sponsored by DCMS).
- To publish and to work with other academic staff to publish in scholarly journals of international standings.
- To attend and present research and represent the interests of the project and Lancaster University at major national and international conferences.
- To be responsible for the facilitation of an online platform to aid collaboration and communication between multiple stakeholders, internally and externally.
- To collaborate on the identification of research funding which leads to related future research and impact bids.
- To be an active and enthusiastic member of the Department of Entrepreneurship and Strategy, and to contribute regularly to relevant research seminars and collaborative research activities.

Fulfilment of these duties may require travel to North Yorkshire, or other locations. The fieldwork will occur in North Yorkshire.

Business Engagement

- To contribute to workshops, training and networking events in the areas of knowledge exchange, innovation, networks, impact assessment and commercialization.
- To produce and present materials for recruitment and dissemination to the business community.
- Be aware of the requirements of the funding body and so (i) to collect appropriate documentation as directed (for example, supporting the monitoring and evaluating activities relating to how partners collaborate with business and their wider communities), and (ii) to produce content for project reports, publications, website and social media.

Other Duties

- The appointee will be required to produce relevant documentation/reports in line with requirements of the funding body as directed, and reports for Lancaster University related to, amongst other things, management-reporting, collection of research impact evidence and publicity initiatives.
- Any other duties as deemed appropriate by the line manager.