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# Research / Senior Research Fellowships

## Faculty of Social Sciences

### Job Information Details



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## Role Overview

### Overview

The Faculty of Social Sciences (the Faculty) is a large and diverse grouping of thirteen departments, including traditional social science departments several subject areas distinctive to Sheffield. This rich and exciting disciplinary mix, encompassing both academic research and education and also a strong practitioner focus in particular areas, uniquely positions the Faculty among leading international institutions.

In order to strengthen the research base across a variety of discipline areas and in order to support the Faculty's ambitious targets for REF2014, the Faculty is looking to take an innovative (and, where appropriate, interdisciplinary) approach to academic research and we are delighted to invite applications for 5 unique positions. These posts are open to outstanding individuals in any discipline/interdisciplinary area, within the Faculty, for appointment at Research Fellow, or Senior Research Fellow, level. Successful applicants will spend 3 – 5 years primarily focussed on the delivering an innovative research agenda before moving to a full academic position within the most appropriate of the Faculty's Departments.

You will hold a PhD in a relevant area (or have equivalent experience) and maintain research activity of a substantial external reputation. This will be achieved through: generating research income and direction for self and others, conducting high quality research, producing research publications of exceptional quality and impact: supervising research students and research staff, participating actively in the development and implementation of the department and the Faculty's research strategy.

Aspirant Senior Research Fellows will also have an established international research profile and a successful record of identifying and capturing peer-reviewed funding. We will expect Senior Research Fellows to develop an innovative and world-leading strand of research within the Faculty.

### Main Duties and Responsibilities

A Research Fellow will:

- Conduct internationally recognised innovative research as well as encouraging and supporting research activities of other staff across the Faculty.
- Develop funding strategies, identify and prepare quality applications for, and the management of, external research grants.
- Generate research funding to finance research projects and support an active research group through applications to the appropriate bodies.
- Disseminate research findings through publications in high impact journals and the presentation of keynote papers at conferences
- Supervise and attract high quality postgraduate students.
- Review manuscripts for peer-reviewed journals and research grants for national and international research funders.
- Contribute significantly to the development and implementation of department and the Faculty research strategy.



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- Be involved in professional activities such as refereeing papers, editing journals, refereeing research grants, external examining, organising conferences, committee membership and involvement with professional bodies.
- Contribute to, and support, research-led learning and teaching activities which, during the period of the Fellowship, will be at postgraduate taught or postgraduate research level.

Additionally, a Senior Research Fellow will:

- Support the Faculty's research ambitions through the dissemination of best practice in respect of high quality research grant applications.
- Manage research budgets, including making strategic decisions about the allocation of money to research.
- Demonstrate substantial external recognition through an extensive range of professional activities.
- Act in senior roles within the department/school/Faculty to stimulate and lead areas of research activity including making links and collaborations within the Faculty and the wider University.

## Person Specification

Applicants should demonstrate evidence of the following criteria in their applications. We will use a range of selection methods to measure candidates' abilities in these areas including reviewing your on-line application, seeking references, inviting short-listed candidates to interview and other forms of assessment action relevant to the post.

Criteria	Essential	Desirable
<b>Qualifications and Experience</b>		
A relevant PhD (or equivalent experience)	X (RF/SRF)	
Substantial external recognition and professional standing	X (SRF)	X (RF)
Demonstrated ability to secure and sustain research funding.	X (SRF)	X(RF)
Excellent record of high quality publications for appropriate career stage.	X (RF/SRF)	
Record of high-quality research publications.	X (RF/SRF)	
Strong background in international research.	X(SRF)	X(RF)
<b>Management Skills</b>		
Ability to supervise and motivate postgraduate students.	X (SRF)	X (RF)
<b>Planning</b>		
Demonstrable ability to conduct long term planning over the length of individual projects in conjunction with colleagues.	X (RF/SRF)	
<b>Communication skills</b>		
Excellent presentation skills.	X (RF/SRF)	
Ability to work effectively with internal and external customers.	X (RF/SRF)	
<b>Team working</b>		
Ability to work both within a team and independently.	X (RF/SRF)	



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<b>Supporting staff performance</b>		
Ability to mentor junior colleagues in developing both their research agendas.	X (SRF)	X (RF)
Ability to undertake staff development reviews of junior colleagues.	X (SRF)	X (RF)
<b>Problem solving and decision making</b>		
Ability to plan and prioritise own daily work and forward plan up to five years for some tasks.	X (RF/SRF)	
<b>Project management</b>		
Ability to design and deliver modules to a high standard.	X (RF/SRF)	
Experience of project management.	X (SRF)	X(RF)
<b>Personal effectiveness</b>		
Experience of developing network of contacts within the discipline.	X (RF/SRF)	
Proven ability to prioritise effectively, managing ad hoc tasks as well as longer-term work.	X (RF/SRF)	
Proven ability to work to deadlines.	X (RF/SRF)	

## Terms of appointment

### Start date:

Post-holders will be able to start immediately.

### Terms and conditions:

Individuals will be appointed on to open ended Research / Senior Research Fellow positions. There is an expectation that individuals will move to a full academic position within a relevant Faculty Department within 5 years of appointment. The timing and arrangements of the transition will be agreed by the Faculty Pro-Vice-Chancellor, the post-holder and the relevant Head of Department.

The roles have been identified as full-time posts, but we are committed to exploring flexible working opportunities with our staff which benefit both the individual and the University. Therefore, we would consider flexible delivery of the roles subject to meeting the business needs of the posts. See [www.sheffield.ac.uk/hr/wellbeing/info/wlb.html](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/hr/wellbeing/info/wlb.html) for more information.

### Salary for this grade:

Research Fellow: Grade 8: £36,862 - £44,016 per annum with the expectation of annual incremental progression. Potential to progress to £49,539 through sustained exceptional contribution.

Senior Research Fellow: Grade 9: £46,696 - £52,556 per annum with the expectation of annual incremental progression. Potential to progress to £60,928 through sustained exceptional contribution.

More details on salaries, terms and conditions and our wide range of benefits for staff are available at <http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/jobs/salaries.html>



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## Selection process

**Closing date:** 5 January 2012

### Application process:

We hope to receive a large number of high quality applications made up of candidates from diverse backgrounds and at different stages of their research careers. In order to assist us with the selection process, we are asking all applicants to attach the following documents to their application form:

- A copy of your CV/resume;
- A covering letter which outlines your motivations for applying;
- A one page document which includes:
  - Confirmation of the department/or the departments within Social Sciences which you feel is most closely aligned to your research agenda;
  - Details of up to 4 outputs which you feel are representative of excellent research. You may include a maximum of one publication which is not in print but has been accepted for publication; and
  - A description, in simple terms, of your proposed research in a way that could be publicised to a general audience [up to 600 words]

Applicants who are successful in the initial selection stage will be advised by the end of January 2012 about the next steps of the assessment process.

**Closing date:** 5 January 2012

### Informal enquiries:

For all on-line application system queries and support, contact: [e-Recruitment@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:e-Recruitment@sheffield.ac.uk) .

For informal enquiries about this job and the Faculty of Social Sciences, contact:  
[ssresearchfellows@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:ssresearchfellows@sheffield.ac.uk)

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