

**THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM
Recruitment Role Profile**

- Job Title:** Research Assistant/Associate/Fellow in Urban Sustainability:
Shanghai, China
- School/Department:** School of Sociology and Social Policy
- Job Family and Level:** Research & Teaching Level 4a or 4 depending on qualifications and experience
- Contract Status:** Fixed-term for a period of 12 months
- Hours of Work:** Part-time (18 hours per week)
- Location:** Law and Social Science Building, University Park
- Reporting to:** Theme 2 Lead, Co-Investigator of "Sustaining Urban Habitats"

Purpose of the Role:

This is an exciting opportunity to join the prestigious Leverhulme Research Programme "Sustaining Urban Habitats: An Interdisciplinary Approach". The ambitious aim of this programme is to transform our understanding of how sustainable cities, and by extension our species, can be. Our objectives in achievement of this aim are to:

- **Confront and understand** the complex interrelated and competing factors influencing urban sustainability.
- Holistically **define, measure and model** urban sustainability.
- Identify **pathways** to *transition* developed cities and accommodate *growth* in developing cities in minimally unsustainable ways.
- Define **policy and governance structures** to implement these pathways in practice.

Background:

According to the United Nations, sustainable development aims to promote sustained and inclusive economic growth, social development and environmental protection. The advertised Leverhulme programme focuses on **urban sustainability in China through a case study of Shanghai**. It is expected that by 2030 Chinese cities will be home to an urban population of 1bn people; most of the population growth will be from migration. This urbanisation has created opportunities for economic wealth creation and resource efficiency. While China's political vision has been to grow the economy, there are now calls for social and political reforms to focus on the needs of the population to underpin social sustainability. Tensions could emerge from the rising cultures of consumerism associated with urban lifestyles; economic calamities may take root in the urban economy as witnessed since the global financial crisis in 2008, and social problems, segregation and inequality within and between cities could follow. Citizenship rights and access to public services are central source of inequality in Chinese cities. The relationship between urbanisation and environmental degradation in China has put a strain on the urban social fabric too.

About this role

The aim of this role is to research urban sustainability in Shanghai from a social science perspective. We anticipate a mixed method case study approach using both quantitative and qualitative methods (socio-demographic data, policy/documentary analysis and interviews). The research associate will be a member of an interdisciplinary team based at the University of Nottingham, United Kingdom, with period(s) of fieldwork in Shanghai, China.

The objectives of this role are:

- To investigate urban sustainability in the city of Shanghai, identifying important themes and influences in sustainability initiatives at the urban level.
- To identify key city stakeholders and research their views of urban sustainability in Shanghai.
- To work collaboratively with colleagues to promote a shared understanding of sustainability and how it could be understood and operationalised in interdisciplinary research.

We welcome applications from recent PhD graduates and from those close to PhD graduation, as well as from applicants with postdoctoral experience. This is a part-time job but we will consider applications from candidates who wish to work part-time. The role is available from January 1, 2018 as a fixed-term post for a period of 12 months.

Main Responsibilities	
1	To collaborate with the project team members to deliver published outputs.
2	To conduct research work for the project (including literature review, fieldwork, networking, conferences, data management, development of ethics application).
3	To collaborate on grant-writing
4	To analyse and write-up data for joint publication.
5	To embrace the impact work of the project and develop new pathways to impact.
6	To assist with the building of collaborations for the project.
7	To collaborate with academic colleagues on non-academic outcomes.
8	To help the project leads integrate the project's various multidisciplinary research strands by enabling and coordinating collaborations.
9	To write blogs, reports, policy briefings, and other audience-specific material.
10	To plan and manage own research activity and resolve problems, if required, in meeting own/team research objectives and deadlines in collaboration with others.

Person Specification

	Essential	Desirable
Knowledge/ Qualifications/ Education	PhD or equivalent in relevant subject area or the equivalent in professional qualifications and experience in research area. OR near to completion of a PhD	
Skills/Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fluency in both Chinese and English languages. • An understanding of urban sustainability from a social sciences perspective. • Excellent oral and written communication skills, including the ability to communicate with clarity on complex information. • High analytical ability to analyse and illuminate data, interpret reports, evaluate and criticise texts and bring new insights. 	Ability to foster a research culture and commitment to learn in others.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to creatively apply relevant research approaches, models, techniques and methods. • Ability to build relationships and collaborate with others, both internally and externally. 	
Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of research dissemination, e.g. conference presentations, reports. • Experience of applying research methodologies and techniques in research projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of publishing in peer reviewed journals.