**Role Description Template (NUSL)**

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| **Faculty/Service:** | Arts Design and Social Sciences |
| **Department:** | **Social Sciences** |
| **Role Title:** | **Research Fellow Living Deltas** |
| **Grade:** | 6 |
| **Category:** | Academic |
| **Role Purpose:** | To develop and undertake participatory and qualitative research exploring the lived experiences of delta dwellers, as part of the international, multi-institutional UKRI GCRF Living Deltas Research Hub ([www.livingdeltas.org](http://www.livingdeltas.org)). |
| **Reports to:** | Professor Matt Baillie Smith |

**General Duties and Responsibilities**

Working under the direct supervision of Professor Matt Baillie Smith and Dr Oliver Hensengerth, the post holder will work in close collaboration with colleagues (UK and overseas) from across the Living Deltas Hub, which operates a model of equitable partnership with delta-dwellers and the research community. The one year maternity cover post will principally work on Work Package 1 (Heritage, Livelihoods and Delta Living: past, presents and alternative futures), and in particular, research young people’s experiences of changing delta life and youth civic action in relation to changing delta environments.

The PDRA will collaborate with colleagues and partners in South Asia and South East Asia to develop research which builds new knowledge and develops resources and approaches which enable delta dwellers’ voices, experiences and ideas to be heard and recognised by policy makers and wider stakeholders.

We particularly welcome applicants from across the social sciences and cognate disciplines (e.g. geography, development studies, sociology, anthropology, politics, education) with experiences of conducting participatory research, and particularly participatory mapping, with young people, in any of the deltas that are the focus of the project (Red River, Mekong and/or Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna deltas). However, we also welcome candidates with experience of participatory and collaborative research, with young people or other marginalised groups, in other areas of the global South.

The successful candidate will be expected to contribute to the development and submission of research publications and research proposals, as well as help manage and direct aspects of the project as opportunities allow.

**The UKRI GCRF Living Deltas Hub**

The Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) is a £1.5 billion fund to address the global issues faced by developing countries. GCRF harnesses expertise of the UK’s world-leading researchers to promote the dignity and prosperity for some of the most disadvantaged and hardest to reach people on our planet. Their sheer scale and ambition are what makes them so exciting, with researchers working in partnership with governments, community groups and international agencies across 85 countries. Each Hub has the potential to transform the quality of life for significant numbers of people across the world and help safeguard our planet for future generations.

The Living Deltas Hub has the overarching aim to safeguard delta futures through more resilient communities and sustainable development. River deltas comprise just one per cent of global landscapes yet support over half a billion people. Deltas are vital social-ecological systems and regional food-baskets, but the terrain and the livelihoods of those who rely on them are under threat from human exploitation, environmental degradation and climate change.

Focusing on the Red River and Mekong deltas in Vietnam and the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna delta in Bangladesh and India, the Living Deltas Hub’s core aim is a significant contribution to better sustainable development outcomes for developing countries in the region, transforming policy and practice based on new approaches to understanding delta change. The Hub will address the significant social-ecological challenges currently confronting these delta systems in a transdisciplinary manner that responds to the interlinked agenda of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The Hub is coordinated by Newcastle University and has over 20 partners across the delta regions and the rest of the world.

**Responsible to:** Professor Matt Baillie Smith

**Specific Duties and Responsibilities:**

1. Identify and scope academic and policy literatures relevant to developing understanding of the lived experiences of delta dwellers, and particularly young people, in the Red River, Mekong and Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna Delta
2. Co-ordinate with partners, stakeholders, other PDRAs and co-investigators in Vietnam, Bangladesh and India to design and deliver a programme of participatory research that supports the aims of Work Package 1
3. Support the development of equitable research partnerships within the context of Living Deltas, including through your own practice and sharing expertise, best practice and guidance across the Hub
4. Contribute to the design and delivery of appropriate capacity development in support of the research
5. Work with delta dwellers and stakeholders to help develop resources that help ensure deltas dwellers’ voices, experiences and ideas are recognized and valued
6. Co-ordinate your own work with that of other PDRAs employed on the Living Deltas Hub and facilitate the incorporation of your research into the wider Hub aims, with corresponding integrated research / policy outputs.
7. Support the development of strong impact pathways through engagement and networking with relevant stakeholders within and beyond the delta regions
8. Maintain accurate, secure, detailed and up-to-date records for all work carried out under the Living Deltas Hub, including working with established work plans and Hub logframes.
9. Present information on research progress and outcomes at an annual Living Deltas Hub meeting and to groups overseeing the research project.
10. Write up results from your own research activity and provide input into the research project’s dissemination, in a variety of forms (reports, journal articles, chapters, book).
11. Comply with University policies, including financial regulations, equal opportunities policy, Health & Safety policy, promoting race equality policy, information systems security policy, data security, intellectual property rights and safeguarding policies.
12. Engage in personal, professional and career development, to enhance both specialist and transferable skills in accordance with desired career trajectory.
13. Carry out other duties, commensurate with the grade of the post, as requested by the project.

**Person Specification**

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| **Specific Knowledge** | | | |
| **Criteria** | **Weight** | **A** | **I** |
| Specialist subject expertise suitable for the Living Deltas Hub, particularly in areas of qualitative and participatory research relevant to Work Package 1 aims | Essential |  |  |
| Understanding of key debates relevant to UKRI GCRF global challenges | Essential |  |  |
| Understanding of key debates relevant to social, economic and environmental change in major river deltas | Desirable |  |  |

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| **Skills, Abilities & Behaviours** | | | |
| **Criteria** | **Weight** | **A** | **I** |
| Understanding of key practical and ethical issues of working with marginalised groups in the global South | Essential |  |  |
| Ability to make a valuable contribution to the research agenda of the Department of Social Sciences and the Centre for International Development, the Faculty of Arts, Design and Social Science, and the University. | Essential |  |  |
| Strong oral and written communication skills appropriate for diverse audiences in academia and practice in the global South and global North | Essential |  |  |
| Good interpersonal skills – ability to work flexibly either independently or as part of a team | Essential |  |  |
| Aptitude to build and develop strong working relationships with collaborative partners | Essential |  |  |

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| **Experience** | | | |
| **Criteria** | **Weight** | **A** | **I** |
| Experience of working in one or more of the countries in the Red River, Mekong River, and / or Ganges-Meghna-Brahmaputra basins | Desirable |  |  |
| Experience of implementing participatory research processes in the global South | Essential |  |  |
| Experience of managing research project budgets, including ensuring appropriate reporting, record keeping and accountability | Desirable |  |  |
| Experience of working with and researching young people in development settings | Desirable |  |  |
| Evidence of ability to publish in internationally recognised academic journals | Desirable |  |  |
| Evidence of ability to attract competitive research funding | Desirable |  |  |
| Industrial / Professional practice experience | Desirable |  |  |
| Experience of working in collaborative research teams | Desirable |  |  |
| Evidence of working with partners overseas / evidence of ability to effectively organise field work with local partners, particularly in the global South | Essential |  |  |
| Evidence of effective resource management | Essential |  |  |

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| **Education & Training** | | | |
| **Criteria** | **Weight** | **A** | **I** |
| Good honours degree (2.1 or above) in a relevant discipline | Essential |  |  |
| Masters degree or equivalent experience in relevant subject | Essential |  |  |
| Relevant PhD or equivalent research experience | Essential |  |  |
| Higher Education Academy Fellowship | Desirable |  |  |

**Legend:** A = Application I = Interview