



The
University
Of
Sheffield.

About
The
Job.

Department of Town and Regional Planning

Faculty of Social Sciences

Chair in Town and Regional Planning

Overview

The Department of Town and Regional Planning (TRP) was established in 1965 and since 2007 has been a member of the Faculty of Social Sciences. The department furthers the study of the broad field of spatial planning through research and the provision of research training programmes and accredited planning and property courses. The mission of the department is:

Excellence in teaching and research undertaken in an interdisciplinary context which exemplifies the essence of 'spatial planning' and is characterised by critical engagement at the interface of social scientific theory and policy, more particularly with the objective of furthering understanding and action which is socially just in relation to spatial processes and place-based outcomes.

Town & Regional Planning at Sheffield is widely recognised as an international centre of research excellence, achieving the highest proportion of world leading (4 star) research activity in the 2008 RAE, and an Independent Evaluation of Teaching in 2007 that confirmed the reputation of the department for offering high quality, research led provision of learning and teaching.

The department has a distinctive mode of operation and outlook. Our success to date has been built on a tradition of collegiality and a deeply embedded, shared commitment to excellence. TRP has developed a reputation within academic and professional communities for education and research programmes characterised by critical engagement at the interface of theory and policy/practice. The seventeen academic staff are drawn from a wide range of social science disciplines and explore a broad range of research subjects but their interests coalesce around a concern with social and spatial justice. The result is a powerful interdisciplinary research programme that generates knowledge about spatial processes and place-based outcomes and seeks to engage on a constructive basis with policy makers and practitioners.

The department's goal is to continue to further enhance our standing in planning education and research internationally. This poses several challenges including: the need to raise the quality of our research and its impact from its already high baseline; the need to continue to deliver innovative, attractive and professionally relevant degree programmes through excellent teaching; and the need to respond to the changing external professional and policy environment nationally and internationally.

The department has embarked on several specific initiatives to support its objectives. First, TRP is planning the launch of a new research centre, provisionally titled the Centre for Social Justice in the City, in October 2011. The centre is intended to help the department emphasise the breadth of interest and expertise in social justice and our track record of engaging in a wide

range of internationally-relevant public policy debates. The Centre will encompass all of the current research interests within TRP as well as strengthening links with colleagues within and beyond the Faculty of Social Science. Second, the department has developed an internationalisation programme designed to strengthen links with key professional organisations and academic institutions in a numerous countries.

The new Chair will be expected to have a strong track record in Planning or a field complementary to the interests of the department. They should be able to contribute to the upper end of the REF output quality spectrum, demonstrate international standing within their field and have a strong track record of income generation and policy engagement and/or strong links to the research and professional communities within emerging educational markets in planning, real estate, international development or related fields. The chair will be expected to take a leadership role within the department and to contribute to the work of the new Centre and to our internationalisation agenda.

Our website offers more information about all aspects of the department's activity. Please see www.sheffield.ac.uk/trp for more details.

The University's expectations of the qualities and responsibilities of its academic staff are captured by the concept of the Sheffield Academic. The role of the Sheffield Academic is underpinned by a number of core values and qualities that are essential to the scholarly pursuit and communication of knowledge in this University. Among them is the recognition that the pursuit of research excellence and the pursuit of teaching excellence are closely linked. Please see www.sheffield.ac.uk/hr/sheffieldacademic/statement.html for further information.

JOB DESCRIPTION

Main Duties and Responsibilities

- Contribute fully as researcher, teacher and leader, in fulfilment of the ideals of the 'Sheffield Academic' (document attached).
- Conduct internationally recognised, innovative research and scholarship, and where appropriate generate research income from external agencies.
- Lead collaborative research activity within the department and establish productive research links and collaborations within the wider University and beyond.
- Manage and/or co-manage external research funding over period of grant(s), and manage and monitor the work of research staff as appropriate.
- Supervise postgraduate research students.
- Disseminate research outcomes through publications in high-impact journals and other high-impact channels including academic and professional conferences.
- Engage in academic and/or professional activities which will enhance the national and international reputation of the department and to represent the department and discipline at a national and international level
- Design and deliver high-quality, research-led teaching for compulsory and elective modules across a range of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes, including: identifying learning objectives, determining appropriate curricula, selecting teaching methods and resources, preparing teaching material, communicating subject-matter, encouraging and supporting student inquiry.
- Conduct assessment of undergraduate and postgraduate student work, including: design of assessment approaches and criteria, provision of formative and summative feedback (oral/written), marking of coursework and examinations to agreed deadlines.
- Supervise and assess undergraduate research projects and postgraduate research

dissertations.

- Carry out module and programme evaluation and implement teaching quality assurance and enhancement strategies.
- Contribute to the academic and management leadership of the department by undertaking administrative duties assigned by the Head of Department
- Contribute to the department's collegial working environment
- Participate in School/Faculty/University committees and working groups as appropriate.
- Participate in external professional activities such as committees, conference organisation, refereeing of research papers and grant applications, journal editing and external examining.
- Self-generate work through research and scholarship, curriculum development, and innovation in teaching and administration.
- Plan and prioritise own daily work and forward-plan up for some tasks.
- Deal with reactive requests daily such as those concerning teaching, supervising students and administrative tasks.
- Any other duties, commensurate with the grade of the post.

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.

- A PhD (or equivalent) in a relevant subject area.
- Extensive knowledge and expertise in any field of planning complementary to the interests of the department
- World-leading research expertise and impact, as evidenced through publications in high-impact peer-reviewed journals and other measures of international esteem.
- Substantial track-record of research grant capture.
- Active involvement in relevant research and professional networks/special interest groups.
- Proven ability to lead and manage externally funded research activity (initiate grant applications, manage projects successfully to completion, manage research staff etc).
- Proven teaching ability and strong commitment to excellence in teaching in Town and Regional Planning, Real Estate and/or International Development and related fields, ideally with a teaching qualification and experience of evaluation, development and innovation in research-led teaching.
- Excellent communication skills, both written and verbal
- Excellent interpersonal skills, to liaise effectively with colleagues, students and external stakeholders.
- Proven ability to work effectively in a leadership role and on a team/collaborative basis in a collegial context.
- Experience of supporting staff performance including the development of earlier-career researchers, and of reviewing staff performance and progress against objectives.
- Excellent planning and organisational skills, including the ability to undertake administrative duties efficiently and effectively.
- Proven ability to work to and meet deadlines.
- Proven ability to adapt rapidly to changing circumstances.

Further Information

This role has been identified as a full-time post, 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 role subject to meeting the business needs of the post. See www.sheffield.ac.uk/hr/wellbeing/info/wlb.html for more information.

Terms and conditions of employment: Will be those for non-clinical professorial staff.

Salary for this grade: Professorial Pay Scheme Band Structure.

Please see pay scheme structure:

(<http://www.shef.ac.uk/hr/reward/professorial/structure.html>)

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

Closing date: 24 May 2011

Informal enquiries:

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

For informal enquiries about this job and department, contact: Professor Gordon Dabinett on g.e.dabinett@sheffield.ac.uk (0044) 0114 222 6187 or Professor Craig Watkins, c.a.watkins@sheffield.ac.uk (0044) 0114 222 6925.

Selection Action – next steps

Following the closing date, you will be informed by email whether or not you have been shortlisted to be invited to participate in the next stage of the selection process. Please note that due to the large number of applications that we receive, it may take up to two working weeks following the closing date before the recruiting department will be able to contact you.

It is anticipated that interviews and other selection action will be held w/c 27 June 2011. Full details will be provided to invited candidates.

The University of Sheffield is committed to achieving excellence through inclusion

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www.sheffield.ac.uk/hr/equality/support/twoticks/

