

## Lecturer/Senior Lecturer in Urban Planning and Resilience

Job reference: 44735  
Closing date: 28 May 2010

### Job summary

The University of Birmingham is making a significant strategic investment in the area of urban resilience. It is currently establishing a research group on Resilience and Urban Living – an innovative partnership between, the School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences (GEES), the School of Psychology and the Centre for Urban and Regional Studies (CURS) connecting research across the Colleges of Life and Environmental Sciences and Social Sciences. The research will focus on understanding the capabilities and capacities of social and/or physical urban systems to withstand change. Understanding these processes requires innovative interdisciplinary research that bridges the social and physical sciences, but also requires understandings of how resilience can be embedded with spatial planning and place making.

This investment involves the appointment of a permanent Lecturer/Senior Lecturer in Urban Planning and Resilience within the Centre for Urban and Regional Studies (CURS), alongside a number of permanent posts in GEES and Psychology. The appointee in Urban Planning and Resilience will work closely with the Resilience and Urban Living team and contribute towards establishing this research initiative as the leading international group in this interdisciplinary area. The appointee will be expected to help grow this new research initiative by publishing work of high academic quality and impact and obtaining external research funding. The appointee will also be expected to contribute to a proposed new postgraduate programme in Resilience and Urban Living, as well as be involved in the delivery and management of existing postgraduate and/or undergraduate teaching within CURS. Working with CURS the appointee will be responsible for developing teaching and research which communicates interdisciplinary findings effectively and highlights how resilience can be embedded into urban systems through the planning system.

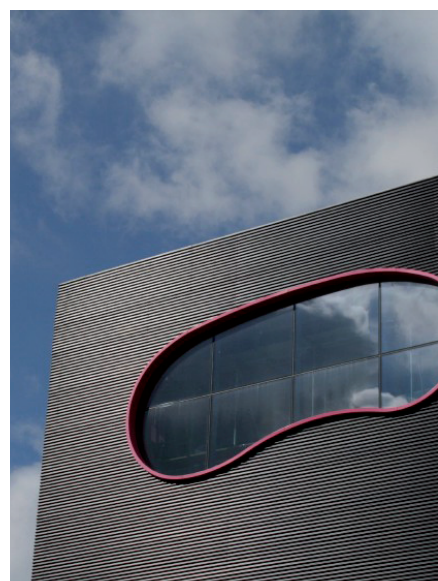
### The person

The successful candidate will have not only a growing reputation in internationally leading research (evidenced for example by a track record of high impact journal publications), but also a clear research vision, with a strong interdisciplinary component. The appointee will have a track record in attracting external research funding. They will be an inspiring teacher, able to communicate with researchers, undergraduates and the general public.

No specific area of expertise within the scope of Urban Planning and Resilience has preference although candidates with an interest in climate change mitigation, sustainable development and/or sustainable design or 'foresight' scenario planning methodologies (including the use of GIS) are strongly encouraged to apply. Applicants will be welcomed with interests in areas which span spatial planning, urban geography, human geography, environmental sciences and environmental risk. The key requirement is a willingness and ability to engage in the interdisciplinary work required to explore resilience within the urban context and to connect to appropriate policy and practice agendas. It is also desirable that the appointee has, or is potentially eligible for, RTPI membership or has experience working with policy communities.

### Main responsibilities

- To teach and examine courses at all levels, ie, undergraduate, postgraduate and/or higher research degree students, through lectures, seminars and personal supervision
- To plan and review own teaching approach



# Lecturer/Senior Lecturer in Urban Planning and Resilience

---

- To develop and apply innovative teaching approaches and materials to enable learning and enthuse students
- To develop programme proposals and contribute to the wider design of the School's teaching programme
- To undertake the full range of responsibilities in relation to supervision, marking and examining to ensure that students progress is being monitored and reported in line with the School's procedures
- To develop approaches to teaching and learning which are appropriate for the University and subject area and reflect developing practice elsewhere
- To plan, design and co-ordinate broad research activities and programmes
- To contribute to the development of research strategies for the School
- To develop methodologies and techniques appropriate to the type of research being pursued and that add to the knowledge/understanding appropriate to the discipline
- To publish results of research in articles and/or books which lead to an enhanced reputation in the subject area and enhance the School's research profile
- To develop innovative research proposals and lead funding bids which develop and sustain research support in the specialist area
- To secure research funding for innovative projects
- To project manage research activities, including the supervision and instruction of other research staff
- To supervise and examine PHD students, both within and outside the University
- To engage in scholarly activity that will enhance the School's and University's reputation such as membership of academic bodies and external examining bodies

## In addition at Senior Lecturer level:

- To lead major funding bids which develop and sustain research support for the specialist area and advance the reputation of the School and University
- To provide expert advice to colleagues, students and external bodies, eg, government bodies
- To lead the advancement of the development of programme curricula
- To act as a coach and role model through excellent practice and mentoring of colleagues
- To promote and market the work of the School in the subject area both nationally and internationally

## Scope of the role

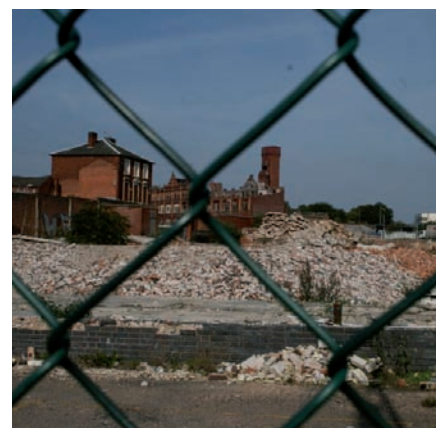
- Teach and assess at undergraduate and postgraduate level through lectures, seminars and personal supervision
- Plan and review own teaching and develop programmes
- Develop and advise others
- Plan, design and co-ordinate research activities and programmes
- Contribute to the development of research strategies
- Publish results of own research
- Supervise PhD students

## Skills and experience

- Higher Degree relevant to research/teaching area (normally PhD)
- Extensive research and teaching experience and scholarship within subject specialism
- Proven ability to devise, advise on and manage learning/research programmes
- Experience and achievement reflect in a growing reputation
- Ability to design and deliver teaching programmes

## In addition at Senior Lecturer level

- Skills in managing, motivating and counselling others successfully at all levels
- Extensive experience and demonstrated success in planning, undertaking and project managing research to deliver high quality results
- Extensive experience of applying and/or developing and devising successful models, techniques and methods





# Lecturer/Senior Lecturer in Urban Planning and Resilience

---

## Planning and organising

- Plan for and set teaching objectives over a number of years
- Plan and manage own teaching and tutorials as agreed with the Head of School
- Plan and deliver against own research objectives
- Organise meetings/conferences/symposia

### In addition at Senior Lecturer level

- Project manage research activities and supervise other research staff

## Decision making

- Contribute to School/Departmental management processes eg, course development

### In addition at Senior Lecturer level

- Lead/project manage a team to devise and implement new and/or revised processes

## Internal/External relationships

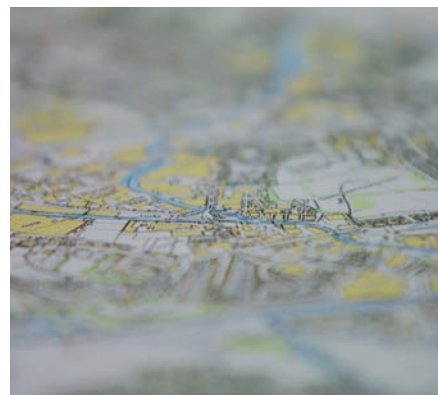
- Communicating complex and conceptual ideas
- Participate in and develop external networks
- Provide expert advice to staff and students within the discipline
- Contribution to recruitment of students
- Act as external examiner

## Centre for Urban and Regional Studies (CURS)

CURS ([www.curs.bham.ac.uk](http://www.curs.bham.ac.uk)) was established in 1966 by J.B. Cullingworth – initially as a research institution in urban and regional studies but has expanded its activities over the past 25 years and currently offers four joint honours combinations involving Urban and Regional Planning (with Geography, Public Policy, Economics and Social Policy). The CURS undergraduate planning programme is well thought of; it is the longest established Planning joint honours programme in the UK (first intake 1983/4) and featured in the 'Top Five' planning programmes in the Guardian 2007 league table.

CURS offers a range of postgraduate programmes, including MSc Urban and Regional Studies, MSc Urban Regeneration Research and Policy, MSc Economic Development Research and Policy, and MSc Urban and Regional Planning (RTPI accredited). A new Spatial Planning and Business Management undergraduate degree was offered for the 2009/10 intake. This will further integrate planning studies within the Business School. Research activities in CURS are currently divided into two interrelated research groupings: Planning, Housing and Communities and Economic Development.

**Planning, Housing and Communities** focuses around issues of sustainable communities which addresses the challenges facing the planning, development and management of neighbourhoods, cities and regions.



# Lecturer/Senior Lecturer in Urban Planning and Resilience

---

The Group's work has an international perspective, drawing on extensive links with research and policy networks and aims to understand the dynamics of places in order to provide a constructive input to the development of policies to deliver more sustainable outcomes. This incorporates research on:

- Spatial planning and sustainable urban development
- Social inclusion and social cohesion
- Neighbourhood regeneration and responsiveness to communities
- Governance and management of places and institutions
- Network governance and cross-sector collaborative working
- The finance, delivery and ownership of housing assets

**Economic Development** aims to enhance understanding of the development and re-organisation economic activity at different spatial scales. The group aims to contribute to evolving academic debates, and to provide policy makers at different levels (European, national, regional, local) with the guidance they need to address contemporary economic change. Research focuses on:

- The role of knowledge networks around businesses, universities and governmental agencies in promoting economic change
- The evolution of sectors and clusters of strategic importance for local and regional economies (automotive, creative industries)
- The impact of economic and labour market changes upon city and neighbourhood trajectories;
- The coherence of concepts applied to economic change ('path dependence', 'cluster', 'innovation') and the theories from which these are drawn
- The development and evaluation of policies responding to economic changes affecting cities and regions

Funders of our research include: the European Community fifth and sixth Frameworks, ESRC, EPSRC, Joseph Rowntree Foundation, The Homes and Communities Agency, Communities and Local Government, Housing Corporation, Department of Work and Pensions and a range of regional and local funders. CURS contributes leading-edge academic and policy-related research to explore new ideas, understand current practice and inform future policies for planning, housing, urban policy, regeneration, regional economic development, social exclusion and cohesion. We place great emphasis on the dissemination of our research findings in order to engage with the wider research and policy communities.

CURS also have a strong commitment and a developing presence in CPD activity and consultancy. We use CPD and consultancy as our bridge between the world of ideas and practice. We work with practitioners and policymakers to ensure that our cutting-edge knowledge helps in the development and delivery of strategic outcomes for sustainable communities and economic growth, supported by tailored programmes concerned with supporting excellence in the management of the public realm and the development of leading organisations and individuals.

CURS has strong links with the School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences in the College of Life and Environmental Sciences, both through its joint undergraduate degree programme and urban based research, but most recently through the establishment of the Resilience and Urban Living research initiative.

## Birmingham Business School

CURS joined the Birmingham Business School in August 2008 ([www.business.bham.ac.uk](http://www.business.bham.ac.uk)). The School as a whole encompasses the Departments of Accounting and Finance, Economics, Management, Marketing and the Centre for Urban and Regional Studies. The Birmingham Business School has a long history and has been in operation since 1902. Business education was pioneered at Birmingham and the School offers a wide range of undergraduate, postgraduate and research degree programmes that are designed to provide both academic excellence and vocational relevance. The Birmingham Business School has always taken a broad view of 'business' and 'management' in its research and teaching, reflecting its liberal arts tradition. This goes back to the granting of the University's royal charter, when the civic leaders who





# Lecturer/Senior Lecturer in Urban Planning and Resilience

---

founded the University (notably Joseph Chamberlain) insisted on education for business leaders. Sir William Ashley, the University's first Dean of the Faculty of Commerce, set out in 1902 the basic mission in terms of 'the education of the officers of the industrial and commercial army; of those who will ultimately guide the business activity of the world.'

Currently over 60 nationalities are represented across the Business School's programmes, reflecting both the international orientation of content and the tradition of Birmingham in welcoming and supporting international students. Many programmes are accredited by the appropriate professional body and the School has AMBA (Association of MBAs) and EQUIS (European Quality Improvement System) accreditation. The School has an active research environment with around 130 lecturing and research staff undertaking projects funded by Research Councils, major trusts, professional institutions, government departments and the EU.

## The city of Birmingham

Birmingham is a major European centre and the second city of the United Kingdom. It is a city of business and ballet, canals and world class concerts, jewellery and jazz, historical interest and cosmopolitan atmosphere. Birmingham is also the ideal base for exploring one of Britain's most fascinating regions for tourism, being within an hour's drive of Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwick, the Potteries, and the Cotswolds.

The new heart of Birmingham is symbolised by Symphony Hall, within the International Convention Centre, considered one of the finest concert venues in the world. Symphony Hall forms part of the impressive new International Convention Centre, which overlooks attractive canals at the hub of the UK's canal network. This setting is a very suitable venue for the CBSO, one of the world's finest symphony orchestras. The internationally renowned Birmingham Royal Ballet, based at the magnificent Hippodrome Theatre, adds further cultural depth to the city. In addition to regular tours by the major opera companies, Birmingham boasts the highest concentration of live theatre excepting London's West end. The City Museum and Art Gallery houses the world's finest collection of Pre-Raphaelite paintings, alongside a major collection of Old Masters, Modern and Contemporary pictures. The Barber Institute of Fine Arts houses one of the UK's best collections of Impressionist and Renaissance art. The restored Gas Hall Gallery has international touring exhibitions, while the Halcyon and Ikon galleries feature innovative contemporary works. National landmark sites abound, including the National Indoor Arena, the National Exhibition Centre (home to the Motor Show, Ideal Home Exhibition etc), National Motorcycle Museum, National Car Heritage Museum and the National Sealife Centre. The high quality Bullring Centre is the largest dedicated shopping facility in Europe. Sports and recreation are well served, complemented by International Test cricket, Premier League football with Aston Villa, International Championship golf and top class rugby. The International Convention Centre and National Indoor Arena have spawned a whole new Downtown area at the centre of the City. The National Exhibition Centre, on the outskirts to the city, remains one of the largest exhibition facilities in Europe.

Birmingham is at the crossroads of the UK's motorways. It is the centre of the national coach network, connected direct to 500 destinations. From Birmingham International Airport, more than a dozen different airlines operate scheduled services to 60 destinations worldwide. Fifty million passengers a year use Birmingham New Street Station, which is at the centre of the high speed rail network. London is 90 minutes away by shuttle service, with trains every 30 minutes. There is a high standard of all types of private accommodation, with high quality affordable family housing in several attractive residential suburbs. Public parks and large domestic gardens are a special feature of this greenest of European cities. Quality public and private schools are widely available, with several consistently rated in the top 10 on examination performance in annual league tables of England and Wales.



# Lecturer/Senior Lecturer in Urban Planning and Resilience

---

## The University of Birmingham

The University of Birmingham has a distinguished academic reputation. It is a member of the Russell Group and belongs to the international network Universitas 21.

The University was founded in 1900 at the initiative of local citizens and is now one of the largest in the UK offering degrees across a wide range of disciplines from Education to Medicine and from Engineering to Law. It is a major international centre of academic excellence, and was 66 in the Times Higher Educational World University Rankings (2009), and 91 in the Jiao Tong, being tenth and eleventh by those rankings among all UK universities. Eight former members of the university have been Nobel Prizewinners.

The University has a turnover of over £400 million per annum and is currently undergoing an extensive capital programme. This positive financial position is almost unique in the UK Higher Education sector and provides a firm foundation for further investment.

One of the University's greatest assets is its Edgbaston campus. It offers its community of over 25,000 students and 6,000 staff an attractive environment in which to study and work. It is situated only two miles from the centre of a major European city and yet is set amongst green and leafy parkland which is largely pedestrianised, and provides a beautiful and pleasant backdrop for imposing Victorian redbrick buildings as well as some striking modern architecture.

The University of Birmingham is an Equal Opportunities employer. It aims to ensure that no job applicant or employee will receive less favourable treatment on the grounds of race, colour, nationality, ethnic or national origins, sex or marital status: this policy will include disabled persons who have the necessary attributes for the post. The University will operate selection and promotion criteria and procedures that are designed to ensure that individuals are selected, promoted and treated on the basis of their relevant aptitudes, skills and abilities.

## Procedure for application

For informal discussion, please contact Professor Jon Coaffee by email at: [j.coaffee@bham.ac.uk](mailto:j.coaffee@bham.ac.uk) or call 00 44 (0)121 414 7421, or Peter Lee at: [p.w.lee@bham.ac.uk](mailto:p.w.lee@bham.ac.uk) or call 00 44 (0)121 414 3645

Applicants are invited to submit their application on-line to us, via [www.hr.bham.ac.uk/jobs](http://www.hr.bham.ac.uk/jobs). You will be asked to provide basic personal information and contact details and give the details of three or more referees. You will then be asked to attach a covering letter and up-to-date curriculum vitae. These documents must be in either pdf or word format and should address how you would be able to fulfil the requirements of the post, including a statement of teaching and research plans. Also please provide links to online copies of recent research papers. Any applicants who would prefer to submit this information in hard copy should please send to: Sally Johnson, Senior Appointments Administrator, Human Resources. The University of Birmingham. Edgbaston. B15 2TT

