

### Role Description

**Faculty/Service:** Engineering and Environment

**Department:** Geography

**Role Title:** Research Fellow in Communication Aspects of Infectious Disease Risk Reduction

**Grade:** 6

**Role Profile:** The appointed candidate will integrate research, evaluation and ongoing study of hygiene behaviour in relation to communication impacts in infectious disease risk contexts. This is to support an applied intervention technique based on puppetry for infectious disease risk reduction. This will be primarily based on the case of diarrhoeal disease interventions in East African contexts. The role requires working on a well-coordinated literature review, accompanying No Strings led interventions in the field locations, data collection and analysis, accompanied by the production of a report and joint authoring of at least one academic paper based on this study. Each task will be engaged as part of a multi-institutional initiative. As a Research Assistant the candidate will be provided with ongoing advice and support from Professor Collins at Northumbria University and will build upon previous work in related areas.

**Category:** Research

**Role Purpose:** *Infectious Disease Risk Reduction* has been pursued in a variety of ways by projects linked to Northumbria Universities Disaster and Development work and is a significant theme within Humanitarian Assistance, Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Health Development initiatives. Northumbria is working with No Strings International as part of an Enhanced Learning and Research for Humanitarian Assistance (ELRHA) innovation project to understand the impacts of No Strings communication based interventions. The exact locations in East Africa that will be engaged by this research and evaluation component will also be finalised depending on any security limitations; they currently include options in Tanzania and South Sudan. The appointed candidate will have a significant role in helping grow and shape the initiative during the forthcoming period of its further emergence.

**Responsible to:** Professor Andrew Collins

### **Generic Duties and Responsibilities:**

In line with the University's Mission, Corporate Strategy and Leadership Attributes, you will:

- Assist in providing research, monitoring and evaluation inputs for the No Strings Project to identify effectiveness and impact potential
- Participate in communication through field work, academic review and publication, public engagement and work both independently and alongside colleagues of the institutions associated with the project

- 
- Assist in academic administrative tasks for the Northumbria input to the project, such as the collation and submission of data and a report and in the production of a research paper.
  - Take a lead in collaboration within the group and with existing and any new partners and opportunities for pursuing related work world-wide
  - Act at all times with integrity and at all times with empathy for the aims and objectives of infectious disease reduction amongst at risk groups of people

**Specific Duties and Responsibilities:**

- Conduct research on communication impacts in hygiene related infectious disease risk, focusing on the role of puppetry and animation
- Carry out field data collection during at least two periods of field input in East Africa
- Help to analyse and evaluate qualitative and potentially a limited amount of quantitative data
- Coordinate and produce a report for the Northumbria part of this project and assist as part of a team in the checking and review of all project reporting.
- Play a key role in the production of a high quality research paper to be submitted for publication in 2018.
- Participate in meetings and contribute to the dissemination and networking of the No Strings initiative and related developments
- Assist in seeking additional investment into approaches represented by this project
- Carry out other such duties as may from time to time be required by the Professor responsible for the Northumbria part of this project

**Location:** Northumbria University, Newcastle upon Tyne, Central Campus with two field visits to East Africa

**Attendance Requirements:** Part-time equivalent to 50% of a Full Post

**Duration of contract:** 12 months equivalent

**Additional Information:** Contact with your present or most recent employer will be made if you are offered the position. Please complete the relevant section in the application form.

## Person Specification

**Faculty/Service:** Engineering and Environment

**Role Title:** Research Fellow in Communication Aspects of Infectious Disease Risk Reduction

**Grade:** 6

		E/D	A/I
<b>1.</b>	<b>Specific Knowledge</b>		
<b>1.1</b>	Sound knowledge of qualitative methods suitable for evaluations	E	A/I
<b>1.2</b>	Sound knowledge of some aspects of hygiene, sanitation or water quality health related issues in developing areas	E	A/I
<b>1.3</b>	Sound knowledge of approaches to some aspects of humanitarian assistance, disaster risk reduction and sustainable development in relation to health and well-being	E	A/I
<b>2.</b>	<b>Skills and Abilities</b>		
<b>2.1</b>	Excellent administrative and planning abilities	E	A/I
<b>2.2</b>	Ability to undertake focused, systematic literature research and summarise content	E	A/I
<b>2.3</b>	Willingness and ability to undertake travel including periods of engagement in periods of collaborative field activities for primary data	E	A/I
<b>2.4</b>	Good academic writing and presentation skills including use of relevant software tools	E	A/I
<b>2.5</b>	Excellent interpersonal skills and a willingness to work as part of a team	E	A/I
<b>2.6</b>	Excellent organisational skills and an ability to work independently to deadlines	E	A/I
<b>2.7</b>	A willingness to learn new skills as may be required during this appointment	E	A/I
<b>3.</b>	<b>Experience</b>		
<b>3.1</b>	Working within a research / project group	E	A/I
<b>3.2</b>	Presentation of work within groups	E	A/I
<b>3.3</b>	Academic writing for publication	E	A/I
<b>3.4</b>	Experience of field based interviewing and some facilitation of relevant field research	E	A/I
<b>3.5</b>	Participation in research grant applications	D	A/I
<b>3.6</b>	Participation in public engagement activities e.g. roadshows, civil societal engagement activities, the media	D	A/I
<b>3.7</b>	Engagement with the humanitarian, disaster risk or development profession for either local level or large scale programmes	D	A/I
<b>4.</b>	<b>Education/Training</b>		
<b>4.1</b>	A good first degree in a social/human sciences/development related subject area	E	A
<b>4.2</b>	A post-graduate qualification in a social/human sciences/development related subject area	E	A

**Legend:**

**E = Essential    A = Application Form**

**D = Desirable    I = Interview    S = Selection Process**