

Job Description – Lecturer in Energy and Sustainable Technologies

About the Role

The School of Engineering & Innovation within the STEM Faculty at The Open University is seeking to appoint a Lecturer in Energy and Sustainable Technologies. This is an exciting opportunity to join a world leader in distance teaching and learning and the largest provider of higher education in the UK. The successful candidate will join an energetic and committed team of academics contributing to the development and delivery of undergraduate and postgraduate distance-learning curriculum related to energy, environmental engineering, energy design, systems and monitoring, and related areas.

The post-holder will be research active in one or more of the following fields: design, engineering and/or systems approaches to renewable energy, energy efficiency and energy conservation. You will be supported to secure external research, enterprise and scholarship funding, and will be expected to undertake research that leads to high-ranking peer reviewed journal publications and to contribute to future REF submissions.

You will need to be resident in the UK at the time of the appointment and will be based at the Open University campus in Milton Keynes. A hybrid working pattern could be adopted for this role if required, where the successful candidate can work from home and the office. However, as this role is contractually aligned to our Milton Keynes campus, some attendance on campus will be required. We would expect this to be a minimum of 2 days per week and in response to business needs.

Key Responsibilities

Teaching

- Contribute to the planning, development, implementation and updating of a high quality and successful curriculum at undergraduate and/or postgraduate levels.
- Prepare distance learning materials suitable for the teaching and learning methodologies used by the Open University.
- Support the delivery (presentation) of curriculum, including briefing, debriefing, and training of distributed teaching staff (Associate Lecturers).
- Support the teaching and assessment / examination processes of the University, monitor samples of marking by Associate Lecturers, be an active member of examination and assessment boards.
- Work with academic and academic-related colleagues in the support of student engagement and progression and other School and Faculty objectives.

- Contribute to the assurance and enhancement of the quality of teaching, learning, research and scholarship within the School of Engineering & Innovation and the wider STEM Faculty, in line with University standards, and complete any training deemed necessary.
- Undertake professional development as an academic educator.

Research and Scholarship

- Undertake a self-directed programme of collaborative research and scholarship in a field that will contribute to the strengths of the School of Engineering & Innovation and the wider STEM Faculty, and at a level commensurate with the current standards of excellence in the Faculty.
- Generate research grant income to support the post-holder's research and to strengthen the School's renewable energy, energy efficiency/conservation and sustainability related research areas and in line with School and Faculty objectives.
- Undertake renewable energy, energy efficiency/conservation and sustainability related research or scholarship that leads to high-impact publications.
- Work effectively and collaboratively to enhance a shared research and scholarship culture.
- Attract and co-supervise postgraduate research students.
- Participate in and host School and Faculty seminars and workshops aimed at sharing research outcomes and fostering interdisciplinary collaboration.
- Engage with appropriate academic leadership and administrative tasks, and play an active role within the School and Faculty, as required by the Head of School.
- Undertake professional development as an academic researcher.

Outreach and Public Engagement

- Engage with, and support, the external promotion of renewable energy and sustainability education at the Open University and contribute to the outreach activities of the School, STEM Faculty and the University.
- Lead and/or create external communications promoting the OU's work in the areas of renewable energy and sustainability via social and other media.
- Participate in the national and international STEM community and learned societies.
- Enhance the reputation of the School, the STEM Faculty, and the University by developing a network of contacts and engagements, for example with businesses and government bodies as appropriate, and through participation in relevant external initiatives.

Other responsibilities as required

- Engage with appropriate administrative tasks (e.g. workload planning, Career Development & Staff Appraisal) and support peer-to-peer review processes.
- Comply with the University's Health and Safety and Equal Opportunities policies in the performance of duties.

- Co-operate with the Open University in ensuring as far as necessary, that Statutory Requirements, Codes of Practice, University Policies, and School Health and Safety arrangements are complied with.
- Have a strong commitment to the principles and practice of equality, diversity, inclusivity and accessibility.
- Have a strong commitment to the principles and practices of sustainability.

Skills and Experience

We are expecting candidates to demonstrate all the essential criteria and some of the desirable criteria.

Essential:

- A PhD in Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency/Conservation, Energy and Environmental Engineering, Energy and Environmental Management, Energy and Environmental Design and/or Systems, or a closely related discipline.
- A Masters degree or a good Honours degree (or equivalent) in same areas as listed for PhD.
- A strong commitment to excellence in inclusive learning and teaching for a diverse student population.
- Demonstrable passion for teaching, whether in distance learning or face-to-face teaching environments.
- Ability to develop new distance-learning material at all levels in the field of renewable energy, energy efficiency/conservation, sustainable technologies and related areas.
- Demonstrable knowledge of developments within the discipline area relevant to teaching, research, and knowledge exchange activities.
- Proven ability to carry out research in the field of renewable energy and/or energy efficiency/conservation
- A strong record of research and/or knowledge exchange that is commensurate to the position.
- Expertise and knowledge of solar and/or wind technologies.
- Proven ability to work collaboratively with others in an interdisciplinary context for teaching or research.
- Ability to develop a leadership role in teaching and/or research, commensurate with stage of career.
- Ability to participate in a research and knowledge exchange programme compatible with the STEM Faculty research strategy and the interests of other research groups in the School and Faculty.
- Evidence of excellent communication skills, both oral and written in a variety of contexts, including the ability to offer and receive constructive criticism.

- Evidence of ability to plan and organise work to agreed deadlines.
- A commitment to the aims, ethos and values of the Open University.

Desirable:

- Experience of teaching, training or supervision in a relevant subject area.
- Experience of supporting adult learners within online and/or distance learning environments.
- Experience of producing online and/or distance learning materials.
- Application of new technologies to support distance teaching and learning.
- Expertise and knowledge of energy efficiency systems in buildings, transport or industry contexts.
- The ability to write on issues outside of immediate area of expertise but in a related topic, in an informed and coherent manner.
- Evidence of applying for external funding, taking into account stage of career.
- A good publication record in mid to top-ranking peer reviewed journals, commensurate with stage of career.
- Experience of supervising research students and managing research budgets, appropriate to career stage.
- Higher Education Academy professional accreditation or equivalent qualification
- Experience of working with and influencing the renewable energy and/or energy efficiency/conservation sectors beyond Higher Education.
- Experience of creating social media communications and engaging external audiences.

Change your career, change lives

The Open University is the UK's largest university, a world leader in flexible part-time education combining a mission to widen access to higher education with research excellence, transforming lives through education.

About the STEM Faculty

The School of Engineering & Innovation is part of the STEM Faculty working alongside the Schools of Computing & Communications; Environment, Earth & Ecosystem Sciences; Life, Health & Chemical Sciences; Mathematics & Statistics; Physical Sciences; and the Knowledge Media Institute.

The Faculty consists of around 2200 staff including 1800 Associate Lecturers. We deliver over 185 modules across our undergraduate and postgraduate curriculum, supporting around 22,770 students per year (full time equivalents) which is 25% of the OU student body.

The Faculty's research is supported by a comprehensive laboratory infrastructure and generates more research income (circa £17m) than any other Faculty in the University.

We are proud of our distinctive values and capabilities underpinning our aspirations of Inclusivity, Innovation and Impact.

We are inclusive:

- We transform people's lives, ensuring STEM education is openly accessible to many thousands of students from diverse backgrounds – our students express high satisfaction with their study experience.
- We engage members of the public in exciting citizen science and engineering through free open educational resources, multi-platform broadcasting, and outreach. Our aim is to inspire the next generation of scientists and engineers. We are equally passionate about running programmes to encourage more women into STEM.

We are highly innovative:

- We are at the forefront of innovative developments in teaching practical science and engineering at a distance, through simulated and remote access laboratories and practical experimentation.
- Our high-quality teaching and curriculum are informed by world-leading research, strong links with professional bodies and communities of practitioners, as well as by scholarship focused on continuously improving our STEM pedagogy.

We deliver significant social and economic impact:

- We provide STEM higher education at a scale and reach unsurpassed in the UK, with a sizeable international reach and further growth potential.
- We enable transferable STEM skills and knowledge direct into the workplace for immediate employee and employer benefit, as students combine study while working.
- The employability value of our courses is underpinned by accreditation from leading STEM Professional Bodies and Learned Societies, as well as partnerships and sponsorship with leading employers.
- Our high quality, applied and academically relevant teaching and research addresses real-world issues, delivering impact for industry and society, including addressing pressing STEM skill-shortages across the UK.

About the School of Engineering & Innovation

The School of Engineering and Innovation (E&I) is one of the largest Schools in the STEM Faculty, with circa 80 academic staff and around 40 PhD students. We also have around 300 Associate Lecturer tutoring across all modules. It is a broad-based multidisciplinary School that leads the OU's teaching in the areas of Engineering, Technology and Innovation Management, Design, Systems Thinking, and Environmental Management. We support qualifications including the IMechE, IET, IED and IOM3 accredited BEng/Meng; the IED accredited BSc in Design and Innovation; the Bachelor of Design (BDes); the BSc (Hons) Environmental Science (Environmental Management route), the MSc in

Engineering, the MSc in Technology Management, the MSc in Systems Thinking in Practice, and the IEMA accredited MSc in Environmental Management. Our diverse teaching reaches across disciplines and embeds wide-ranging pedagogies that support teaching excellence. This high standard is reflected in the Open University's Gold rating in the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) award.

E&I is one of the most research-intensive Schools in the University, hosting two submissions in the Research Excellence Framework (REF2021) from Engineering and Design. Other areas of E&I research that typically contribute to the University's REF submissions include Energy, Acoustics, Waste Management, and Systems Thinking.

Whilst the majority of colleagues are based at Milton Keynes, we have colleagues located throughout the four nations. E&I adheres to the Athena Swan Charter and is proud to hold an Athena Swan Silver award.

The Open University is committed to equality, diversity and inclusion which is reflected in our mission to be open to people, places, methods and ideas. We aim to foster a diverse and inclusive environment so that all in our OU community can reach their potential. We recognise that different people bring different perspectives, ideas, knowledge, and culture, and that this difference brings great strength. We strive to recruit, retain and develop the careers of a diverse pool of students and staff, and particularly encourage applications from all underrepresented groups. We also aspire to make The Open University a supportive workplace for all through our policies, services and staff networks.

