

FALMOUTH UNIVERSITY

JOB DESCRIPTION

RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

Job title:	Postdoctoral Research Associate, Centre for Blended Realities
Grade:	5
Responsible to:	Lead, Centre for Blended Realities
Responsible for:	N/A
Date:	August 2024

Job purpose: As part of the ongoing expansion of our Research and Knowledge Exchange (RKE) capabilities, we are inviting applications for a Postdoctoral Research Associate position. The focus of the role is to develop and share interdisciplinary understandings of blended reality technologies, and their varied application in creative settings. This role is open to candidates from various disciplines, including but not limited to technology development, digital humanities, and the digital creative industries. We are looking for individuals who are enthusiastic about interdisciplinary research and who are eager to collaborate with our team to advance knowledge and practice. The role holder is responsible to the Lead of the Centre for Blended Realities and will play a critical role in driving research excellence at Falmouth University. Responsibilities will include participating in cutting-edge research projects, engaging with industry and community interest groups, and disseminating research findings through various channels. Additionally, they will contribute to the strategic goals of the University by fostering innovation and supporting the broader RKE agenda.

Our research initiatives are housed within dynamic and forward-looking centres, with this post located in the **Centre for Blended Realities**, which has recently been established with substantial support from Research England's Expanding Excellence in England (E3) fund. The Centre for Blended Realities is at the forefront of blending creative practices with advanced technologies, particularly in immersive and interactive environments, to generate new forms of knowledge and innovation.

Falmouth University's RKE activities reflect the 2030 Vision Statement:

- To be the leading institution for the nexus between creativity and technology.
- To establish Cornwall as the County for Creative Learning, using innovative and open pedagogies as an integral part of its education and business eco-system.
- To develop the next generation of creative leaders and explorers, who will change the world through their curious minds, creative impact and unique skillsets.

- To build on our strengths in research and knowledge exchange to deliver experimental, environmental and societal impact.

Main Duties and Responsibilities

The main duties and responsibilities are organised under the following headings:

- 1. Research Collaboration and Innovation**
- 2. External Engagement and Knowledge Exchange**
- 3. Research Support and Project Coordination**
- 4. Professional Development and Team Collaboration**
- 5. General Duties and Responsibilities**

1. Research Collaboration and Innovation:

- Contribute to the development and delivery of research and innovation projects within the [Centre for Blended Realities](#) (CBR), aligning with the Centre's strategic objectives.
- Collaborate with colleagues within the CBR to support research initiatives, assist in the development of projects, and contribute to effective communication strategies.
- Maintain and update knowledge within the relevant subject area, critically appraising literature, and contributing to impactful case studies aligned with CBR activities.

2. External Engagement and Knowledge Exchange:

- Actively engage with external partners and stakeholders to support the dissemination and impact of research findings.
- Assist in communicating and presenting research outcomes within and beyond the University through various channels, including publications, events, and conferences.
- Support the public profiling of the CBR and related activities, identifying opportunities to enhance the visibility and impact of the research.

3. Research Support and Project Coordination:

- Assist in the preparation and submission of research and innovation funding applications, ensuring that projects align with the Centre's goals.
- Provide support for RKE infrastructure, including monitoring compliance with research requirements and assisting in the preparation of reports on CBR activities.
- Compile and provide clear, concise written summaries or reports to support research outputs, based on literature reviews, evidence synthesis, and data analysis.

4. Professional Development and Team Collaboration:

- Support the research outputs of colleagues by assisting with the preparation of research publications, presentations, and other dissemination activities.
- Contribute to a positive team culture within the University by maintaining good communication and collaboration with academic staff.
- Participate in continuous professional development (CPD) activities relevant to the role to maintain and enhance research skills.

5. General Duties and Responsibilities:

- Undertake any other duties compatible with the general scope and level of the post.
- Take responsibility for personal continuous self-development.

- Comply with the Health and Safety at Work Act, taking reasonable care for your own health and safety as well as that of others who may be affected by your actions.
- Engage with and actively support the University's equality and diversity policies and practices.
- Participate in the University's Annual Performance Development Review Process.

Health and safety requirements

The University takes health and safety matters very seriously. All staff have a responsibility to take reasonable care for the health and safety of themselves and others who may be affected by their actions and omissions. They also have a duty to comply with the University arrangements for health and safety. Staff with responsibility for others must ensure the proper enactment of university policy within their areas in line with levels of responsibility set out in the University's Health and Safety Policy. In relation to health and safety, you are responsible for ensuring that:

- You comply with safe systems of work in operation within your work area.
- You work co-operatively with other staff who have responsibility for health and safety requirements.
- You report any health and safety concerns to your manager or other responsible member of staff as soon as these are identified.
- You attend training as appropriate to your role (see the relevant health and safety training grid for requirements).
- You may be required to undertake duties as a first aider (for which a separate allowance is paid).
- The health and safety of any person associated with the facilities for which you are responsible and the activities being carried out within those facilities is delivered through the provision of risk assessments, safe processes of work and effective monitoring and supervision.
- Membership and responsibility as a designated member of Falmouth's Committee structure (including Health and Safety Committee) as appropriate to the role.

You are responsible on direction and on behalf of the relevant management board lead, for supporting the discharge of their health and safety duties as a member of the senior management team:

- To monitor effective safety implementation.
- To identify health and safety needs and requirements.
- For the care of all those affected by your acts or omissions.

You have a responsibility to ensure a safe and healthy environment for staff, students and other users of the areas of the University under your span of control, by ensuring that:

- Falmouth's safety policies and requirements are implemented and that resources are available to the staff under your control to ensure statutory compliance.
- Risk assessments are undertaken for relevant activities (e.g. fieldwork, performances, exhibitions etc.) undertaken by staff and students within your area, and that any Resulting actions are taken and that safe working practices are followed.
- Correct and timely communication of safety issues, both to your superiors and the staff that work for you, as relevant to your areas of responsibility is carried out.

- Staff within your area fulfil their responsibilities under the University’s Health and Safety Policy, including any responsibilities as members of University Committees as appropriate.

Measures and Indicators of Success

Measures and indicators of success in this role will be agreed at regular intervals and as part of the annual PDR (Performance Development Review) process, and will include, but are not limited to:

- Contribution to delivery against annual targets articulated in the RKE strategy
- Contribution to the progressive achievement of CBR’s financial income and research outputs
- An increased level of externally funded research and knowledge exchange activity at the University - both in terms of income generated and the proportion of staff involved.

Person Specification: Research Fellow, Grade 6

Attributes	Essential	Desirable
Education / Qualifications	A first degree or equivalent; PhD or near to completion	
Experience / Knowledge	<p>Knowledge and experience of one or more of the following:)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • advanced / assistive product design • augmented / blended / extended / virtual realities • co-located and virtual performances • digital audience engagement • digital creative industries • digital humanities • experimental design for heritage and culture • game development • haptic technologies • immersive technologies • technology development <p>A good understanding of the research process</p> <p>A proven track record in delivering projects to deadline</p>	<p>An emerging publications record in the field</p> <p>Experience of research funding bids</p> <p>A track record of organising conferences and public engagement events</p> <p>Experience of practice research methodologies</p> <p>Generation of novel IP</p>
Skills / Personal Requirements	<p>Proven effective interpersonal and communication skills including written, oral and IT</p> <p>Self-motivated, hardworking, and able to organise and prioritise own work workload</p>	

	<p>Ability to work on multiple projects concurrently</p> <p>Ability to critically appraise research evidence</p> <p>A highly motivated, committed, affable and effective team member, able to work flexibly, creatively, quickly and accurately when working to tight deadlines.</p>	
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