FALMOUTH UNIVERSITY

JOB DESCRIPTION	RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

Job title: Research Fellow, Centre for Blended Realities

Grade: **6**

Responsible to: Lead, Centre for Blended Realities

Responsible for: N/A

Date: August 2024

Job purpose: 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. The focus of the role is to develop and share interdisciplinary understandings of blended reality technologies, and their varied application in creative settings. Responsibilities will include leading and participating in cutting-edge research projects, developing impact case studies, securing external funding, 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, mentoring emerging researchers, and supporting the broader RKE agenda.

Research and Knowledge Exchange (RKE) at Falmouth University is dedicated to advancing our understanding and innovation at the intersection of creativity and technology. 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.

As we expand our RKE capabilities, we are inviting applications for **two new Research Fellows**. These positions are open to candidates across a range of disciplines, including (but not limited to) technology development, digital humanities, and the digital creative industries. We seek individuals who are passionate about interdisciplinary research and eager to collaborate with our existing team to push the boundaries of knowledge and practice.

Main tasks and responsibilities
The main duties and responsibilities have been grouped under the following headings:

1. **Research Leadership and Innovation**
2. **External Engagement and Knowledge Exchange**
3. **Funding Acquisition and Project Management**
4. **Mentorship and Capacity Building**
5. **General Duties and Responsibilities**

1. Research Leadership and Innovation
- Lead in the development and delivery of new research and innovation projects within the [Centre for Blended Realities](#) (CBR), driving forward the Centre's strategic objectives.
- Work with the Lead of the CBR to identify, grow, and support research and innovation projects across the university, including leading new initiatives, supporting colleagues, and developing effective communication strategies.
- Support the University's existing portfolio of research and knowledge exchange projects, ensuring alignment with the University's broader research strategy.
- Maintain and update knowledge within the subject area, critically appraising relevant literature, and building impactful case studies aligned with CBR activities.

2. External Engagement and Knowledge Exchange
- Act as an advocate for the Centre, the University, and its objectives, engaging effectively with interested parties and partners.
- Communicate and present research findings within and beyond the University, through practical outcomes, technical innovations, publications, events, conferences, and other appropriate avenues.
- Assist with the public profiling of the CBR and aligned activities, and identify opportunities to increase the impact of research.

3. Funding Acquisition and Project Management
- Lead in the development, writing, and submission of research and innovation funding applications, ensuring projects are well-resourced and aligned with strategic goals.
- Support the RKE infrastructure by monitoring staff compliance with research requirements (such as FURR and Open Access), and assisting with the compilation of a monthly report on CBR activity.
- Provide clear and timely written summaries or reports to support research outputs, based on searches into literature, evidence, reports, and statistical data.

4. Mentorship and Capacity Building
- Support the research outputs of others, assisting relevant research leads with the

development of research publications, conference presentations, and other dissemination activities.
- Contribute to the development of a positive team culture within the University, maintaining supportive contact with academic staff.
- Undertake 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.
- To be responsible for your own continuing self-development.
- To work within the Health and Safety at Work Act, the post holder has a legal duty to take reasonable care for Health and Safety both for themselves and others who may be affected by their actions. They are also required to undertake Health and Safety training commensurate with the level required by the post and to take part in risk assessment procedures and the implementation of agreed recommended work practices within the area.
- To undertake other duties not specifically stated above, which from time to time are necessary for the effective performance of the University's business without altering the nature or level of responsibility involved.
- To work within and actively support the equality and diversity policies and practices of Falmouth University.
- To 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	
Experience / Knowledge	Knowledge and experience of one or more of the following:) • advanced / assistive product design • augmented / blended / extended / virtual realities • co-located and virtual performances • digital audience engagement • digital creative industries	An emerging publications record in the field A track record of successful research funding

	- digital humanities - experimental design for heritage and culture - game development - haptic technologies - immersive technologies - technology development A good understanding of the research process A good understanding of research policy and funding A proven track record in delivering projects in support of research, to deadline	A track record of organising conferences and public engagement events Experience of practice research methodologies Generation of novel IP
Skills / Personal Requirements	Proven effective interpersonal and communication skills including written, oral and IT Self-motivated, hardworking, and able to organise and prioritise own work workload Ability to work on multiple projects concurrently Ability to critically appraise research evidence A highly motivated, committed, affable and effective team member, able to work flexibly, creatively, quickly and accurately when working to tight deadlines.	