

Role Title	Inclusive Climate Researcher
Responsible To	Head of Research and Delivery
Responsible For	None
Job Level	Researcher / Manager
Salary	£42,000 plus benefits
Primary Location	London/UK based (hybrid working) with travel to London and overseas as required. Must have the right to work in the UK.
Position Type	Full-time – open to flexible working and job-share arrangements
Term	2 year initial contract, with possibility for extension.

Role Purpose

The Global Disability Innovation Hub (GDI Hub) is a research and practice centre driving disability innovation for a fairer world. Based at University College London, GDI Hub is both an academic research centre based in the Dept of Computer Science at UCL East and a Community Interest Company (CIC). This role sits within the CIC.

Since its launch in 2016, GDI Hub has reached 41 million people and built a portfolio of research and innovation in global development with clients including the UK Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), Asian Development Bank, World Bank, and Climate Investment Funds. GDI Hub’s work spans a wide range of themes related to disability, including Assistive Technology (AT), Innovation, Inclusive Design, Culture and Participation, Inclusive Education, Climate and Crisis Resilience, Financial Inclusion and Gender.

While this role will focus mainly on the climate portfolio, many projects cut across these themes. GDI Hub’s flagship programme, the UK Aid funded AT2030 programme, is a 10-year, £51 million, programme driving access to life-changing assistive technology for the 1.2 billion people who need it. Under the extension of this programme, announced by the Minister for Disabled People at the UN Conference of State Parties in June 2023, a dedicated strand of research on the intersection of inclusive infrastructure, AT and climate change will take place, starting in 2024.

The Inclusive Climate Researcher is being recruited to support delivery on this growing portfolio of research and consultancy focussing on inclusive approaches to climate action, adaptation, mitigation and resilience. This work is closely aligned with GDI Hub’s work on inclusive cities and infrastructure, so an understanding of the intersection of climate, disability inclusion and accessibility in cities is important, and the post holder will likely work closely with inclusive design colleagues.

Initially, the role will primarily support a new project integrating disability inclusion in low carbon futures through research, training and technical assistance.

Role Overview

This role will suit someone with research experience that is also looking to engage in practical work and drive impact.

The role will require knowledge of disability innovation and inclusive design in the context of climate change, including an appreciation of disability in the context of wider social inclusion and climate adaptation/mitigation. While the post holder will be able to work with subject matter experts, the ability to work across these diverse domains is essential. Good communication skills are vital as training and communicating knowledge to diverse audiences is a key part of this role.

The researcher will undertake research under the supervision and guidance of the project lead (GDI Hub's Head of Research and Delivery). They will be responsible for research and analysis drawing on diverse research skills including policy review and strategy, desk reviews, qualitative, co-design and participatory methods, with the ability to extract key themes and provide actional insights.

Experience in and a passion for inclusive approaches to research with diverse user groups is key to this role. The researcher will be expected to be able to develop research protocols, instruments and methodologies to suit project needs, ranging from academic to consultancy-based research. Experience in academic research, including acquiring ethical approval, managing data and analysis and drafting quality academic papers would be an advantage. Communicating with diverse audiences through the preparation of presentations for clients and events, report and paper writing will be a large part of this role.

Translating knowledge into practice, technical assistance to climate projects, developing and supporting delivery of training on inclusive climate innovation, managing clients and networks of innovators and experts will form part of the role.

The researcher will support advocacy, communications and external engagement, promoting the work under their remit, including at key conferences and events, including UN climate events. They will also support the publication of papers aligned to the research and delivery to further increase the reach and impact of the work and seek to instil academic rigour as appropriate.

The role will be based within the Research and Delivery team and involve collaboration with Innovation and Academic colleagues. The post holder will be expected to operate with reasonable autonomy, participate in client conversations, be collaborative and creative with a drive to make the world a fairer place, inspiring others to do the same.

The Inclusive Climate Researcher will focus on three key areas:

- Project and Research Delivery and Management (approx. 70%)
- Support to Project Management and Reporting (approx. 15%)
- Support Strategy, Communications and External Engagement (approx. 15%)

Role Responsibilities

Project and Research Delivery and Management

- Work with internal teams, partners and stakeholders, to support effective collaboration.
- Conduct quantitative, qualitative and co-design research, including interviews, workshops, co-design and desk reviews.
- Manage and support remote and in-country data collection as needed, along with data analysis, write up of findings and crafting of relevant recommendations.
- Support production of client-facing reports to the highest standard, including with respect to content, style, consistency, presentation and supporting details.
- Contribute to and occasionally lead external workshops, engagements and training (e.g. with client teams).
- Ensure research projects deliver evidence-based, tenable, and relevant recommendations that meet client expectations, providing concise written reports, decks and academic publications as necessary.
- Support technical assistance activities, including coordinating GDI Hub experts to deliver on specific engagements
- Support management of workplans, including emergent risks, challenges, change requests, budgets, travel, schedules, and scope.

Support to Project Management and Reporting

- Day to day independent management of tasks and oversight of project delivery, understanding needs and priorities, and linking these to project and team delivery plans.
- Support project reporting requirements.
- Support client management, occasionally deputising for the Head of Research and Delivery
- Engage with emerging opportunities for new projects, supporting proposal development alongside the wider team.

Support Strategy, Communications and External Engagement

- Provide input to communications content and the events pipeline to further raise the profile, reach and impact of GDI Hub's work.
- Write insight reports, blogs or other content to support communications and external engagement as required.
- Support event planning and delivery as required.
- Highlight communication, networking and new work opportunities arising from project and client engagements.

This is a description of the role as known at present. It is the practice of GDI Hub to review role profiles annually to ensure that they relate to the role being performed. This review will be carried out by the line manager in consultation with the role holder.

Experience and Qualifications

Essential:

- A minimum 3-5 years experience in research and/or global development related to climate change and inclusion
- Post graduate qualification or equivalent, focused on climate change, disability and inclusion or a related field
- Experience producing robust research reports and/or papers and the methods and tools required to produce these.
- Knowledge of the principles, policies and frameworks of inclusive climate action and inclusive development
- Experience undertaking community engagement, with disability organisations, groups and disabled people
- Knowledge of accessibility and inclusive engagement and research processes.
- Experience working on large, multi-partner programmes
- Knowledge of project management tools and experience working alongside a Project Manager

Desirable:

- Experience working effectively with a wide range of internal and external stakeholders
 - Such as experience working with multi-lateral organisations, private sector, public sector, third sector and academic projects and key institutional donors in the global development
- Experience contributing to the development of thematic/technical/academic approaches and frameworks within a project delivery setting.
- Experience working in small but complex teams
- Knowledge of academic literature and ability to engage in that space
- International work experience
- Any additional language skills would be desirable though not essential

Role Competencies

Skills and Abilities:

- Project Management
- Planning and organising work
- Virtual and global collaboration with internal team, partners and clients
- Stakeholder management
- Strong analytical skills and comfort working with data to inform clear insights
- Impact-driven work
- Strategic and innovating thinking
- Excellent ability to communicate, work in a team, and collaborate with individuals with diverse technical backgrounds and with external stakeholders.

- Excellent ICT skills (Office365, incl. Excel, SharePoint, Teams, etc.)
- Ability to travel and work internationally when required

Personal Style and Behaviour:

- Pro-active and self-motivated
- Dynamic and able to adapt to different situations quickly
- Attention to detail
- Ability to manage and influence others
- Proactive problem solver
- Practical and pragmatic
- Likes working as part of a small, energetic team
- Integrity and inclusive behaviours
- Able to work independently, prioritise and work to tight deadlines
- Excellent presentation and communication skills

Application Procedure:

To apply for this role please submit your CV and a one-page covering letter describing how you think your skills and experience are relevant to this role via this link here:

<https://www.disabilityinnovation.com/who-we-are/work-with-us/inclusive-climate-researcher>

GDI Hub values inclusion as a core business success factor. We actively seek to attract employees from diverse backgrounds and particularly welcome applications for this role from disabled people. The role is offered on flexible terms and the accommodation of reasonable adjustments is business as usual for us.

We have made every effort to make this process accessible. However, if for any reason you find it is not, please let us know and we will make an adjustment. Please be advised that we will only provide feedback to shortlisted candidates.

For an informal discussion about the role, please contact: Mikaela Patrick (mikaela.patrick@ucl.ac.uk)