



Short-term Contract for a Knowledge Exchange and Public Engagement Manager

Soillse is a multi-institutional and interdisciplinary research collaboration between the University of the Highlands and Islands; Aberdeen University; Edinburgh University and Glasgow University. Soillse was established in 2009 to provide research opportunities and post-graduate training in various academic disciplines relevant to the maintenance and revitalisation of Gaelic language and culture. By enhancing the research capacity in relation to the sociology, sociolinguistics, and language policy and planning aspects of Gaelic as a living language and culture, the participating universities seek to develop the Soillse collaboration as a world-class minority language research initiative, and to participate in scholarly and public debate concerning minority language issues in general, with a view to informing public policy in Scotland and beyond.

Soillse, in collaboration with Sabhal Mòr Ostaig (SMO), invites applications for a short-term contract to help develop and manage appropriate Knowledge Exchange and Public Engagement (KEPE) strategies for the Soillse research mission. Applicants will be required to submit a CV and a letter of application in which they indicate how their knowledge, experience, and skills relate to the aims of Soillse and the specific demands of this post. More detail on the interview process and language requirements is available from the Director of Soillse.

Purpose of the role

Recruitment of a KEPE manager on a short-term contract will embed the Soillse project more appropriately within the policy arena at national and international levels, with the role also providing support in the generation of added value and impact to the overall research outputs of the Project.

The key functions of the role are to:

- Provide the strategic lead for Soillse KEPE activities through effective project management of the delivery of components within an agreed public engagement and knowledge exchange programme across the identified categories of stakeholders.
- Provide KEPE support relevant to the Islands Gaelic Research Project, including a series of community consultations and direct liaison with relevant public bodies; developing a comprehensive media strategy for the dissemination of the project results; assisting with the preparation of research digests on the various modules of the project.
- Provide support for a research sustainability platform as it pertains to knowledge exchange issues with community bodies and public authorities in relation to the extension of the Soillse project in its next phase from 2017 onwards.

- Provide media liaison for the Soillse partnership.
- Liaise with relevant stakeholders as required to ensure that feedback from the KEPE processes are identified and evaluated within the context of the Soillse research agenda, and carried forward into strategic research priorities that will form the Soillse sustainability plan.
- Provide support opportunities for Soillse research staff to fully engage with the KEPE strategy through seminar attendance and possible shadowing of the post-holder.
- Organise a major public event/conference to highlight KEPE impact of Soillse research activities to date and to set out a public engagement agenda with stakeholders for the medium term development of the Soillse partnership, with a view to reinforcing Soillse's role in research-led policy innovation in support of community and official initiatives for Gaelic.
- Provide support in conjunction with SMO/UHI KE staff, to ensure that the key messages arising from Soillse research activity are identified and effectively communicated to key stakeholders to deliver measureable impact in supporting the revitalisation of Gaelic in Scotland.
- Provide support to the Soillse Research Director and Management Team with associated KEPE and research activities.

The position is available at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig (SMO), the National Centre for Gaelic Language and Culture and an academic partner in the University of the Highlands and Islands. The primary location for this post will be at the offices of SMO on the Isle of Skye. The post will entail a substantial amount of travelling, particularly in the Western Isles. Issues regarding location will be agreed with the successful candidate.

The Position

Job title: Knowledge Exchange and Public Engagement Manager

Duration: The Soillse position will be awarded for a period of 18 months

Line Management: Soillse Research Director

Key Competencies

Essential

- High level competence in both Gaelic and English (spoken and written)
- Excellent communication skills in dealing with the public, official bodies, and the media

- Experience of project management, particularly in relation to Knowledge Exchange and Public Engagement
- Knowledge and experience in Gaelic language policy development and dissemination
- Conference organisation experience
- Administrative and interpersonal skills
- Ability to work in a team

Desirable

- Training at graduate or post-graduate level in communication studies and/or project management
- Experience of language planning or sociolinguistic projects
- Experience of work in the Gaelic policy sector
- Knowledge of socioeconomic and sociolinguistic concerns in Western Isles communities and their development bodies

Employing Institution

The individual offered the position will be hosted by Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, as one of the institutions participating in Soillse. The successful applicant would be subject to the employment terms and conditions of the host institution.

The successful candidate will be expected to engage in Soillse activities in other locations also including Inverness, where the lead institution of the Soillse network, the University of the Highlands and Islands, is headquartered.

The appointment will be made on a salary scale commensurate with knowledge and experience, within the range of £37,088 – 40,724 (at 0.75 FTE pro-rata), according to the SMO pay scale.

Duration

This post is funded for an eighteen month period.

Application Procedure

Applicants are required to complete an application form and to submit it along with the following:

- A detailed CV, including the names of two referees
- A letter of application setting out:

- a) why this position is being applied for and
- b) how the applicant's experience to date relates to the research aims of Soillse and the specific demands of this post.

For further specific information regarding the post, prospective candidates may contact Prof. Conchúr Ó Giollagáin, the Director of Soillse, if they wish to have an informal discussion regarding the position prior to the formal interview: Tel: 01471 888558; E-mail: sm00cog@uhi.ac.uk.

Deadline for applications: 05/09/16

Expected date for the interviews: 12/09/16