

Edible Estates CIC

JOB DESCRIPTION

Senior Community Researcher

(New Scots Community Gardening Study)

RESPONSIBLE TO	Director
TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT	14 hours/week. Fixed term month contract from 1st May 2025 until the 30th November 2025.
SALARY	£28,342 - £32,677 (sliding scale dependant upon candidates experience and qualifications)
LOCATION	Edinburgh, working within community's and Edible Estates' office

OVERVIEW

Edible Estates is seeking a motivated and culturally sensitive individual to join our team as a Senior Community Researcher to lead our New Scots Community Garden Integration Study. This role will oversee the implementation of a research project exploring how community gardens can support the integration and well-being of new Scots in Edinburgh.

Edible Estates is a not-for-profit organisation, our core operation is the development of community gardens and other greenspace projects in Edinburgh's council estates. The study will leverage Edible Estates role delivering and supporting community gardening projects across Edinburghs council estates.

The successful candidate will work closely with new Scots, community researchers, community garden development officers, and local organisations to facilitate meaningful engagement between new Scots and community gardens.

NEW SCOTS COMMUNITY GARDEN STUDY

The New Scots Community Garden Study is a research project led by Edible Estates to explore how community gardens can support the integration and well-being of new Scots in Edinburgh. This study aims to understand the impact of community gardening on recent immigrants and refugees, their capacity to bring new Scots and local communities together through shared gardening activities, allowing for cultural exchange and the development of social connections, while also identifying barriers to participation and opportunities for enhancing social connections.

The study is funded by Groundswell, a consortium of universities investigating the links between greenspace and wellbeing. Staff from the OPENspace Research Centre will collaborate in the delivery of the study and incorporate its findings into their research.

Key objectives of the study include:

1. Assessing the current involvement of new Scots in community gardens across Edinburgh.
2. Identifying barriers that may prevent new Scots from participating in community gardening activities.
3. Exploring the potential benefits of community gardening for new Scots, including improved well-being, cultural exchange, and community integration.
4. Evaluating the capacity of existing community gardens to welcome and support new Scots.
5. Developing strategies to increase new Scots' participation in community gardens.

MAJOR TASKS/ACTIVITIES

Project Management & Delivery

Coordinate and manage the overall New Scots study project, ensuring timely delivery of objectives. Manage project budget and resources effectively.

Community Researchers

Recruit, supervise and support the New Scots community researchers. Arrange team meetings with researchers to facilitate mutual support/learning, building knowledge and best practice.

Networking & Partnership

Develop and maintain partnerships with organisations supporting new Scots in Edinburgh. Liaise with academic partners.

Collaborate with Edible Estates community garden development officers to assess garden capacities and facilitate new Scots' involvement

Explore potential funding opportunities for project continuation or expansion

Engagement

Oversee the recruitment and engagement of new Scots participants in the study, with support of the community researchers.

Measuring, Evaluation & Reporting

Design and implement monitoring and evaluation strategies for the project. Analyse research data and prepare reports on project outcomes. Organise workshops, focus groups, and community events related to the study

TEAM WORKING

The role will involve working at the Edible Estate office as well as locations across Edinburgh. You will work as part of our team, with partner organisations and with employability key workers across the

city. This will include, attending team meetings as required to report, discuss and develop the project. Collation and reporting of workshop participation info, and monthly reports to the Director.

OTHER

To operate within our Equal Opportunities Policy, Safeguarding and other policies. To carry out other reasonable duties deemed necessary by the Director.

Decisions Made

The post holder will require to make frequent decisions on operational matters, decisions of a strategic nature are taken by the Director, and/or the Board of Edible Estates.

Supervision Received

Regular employee supervision and support sessions will be available with the Director.

QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE

Essential

- Experience in qualitative and quantitative research methodologies
- Experience in project management, preferably in community development or research settings
- Strong understanding of issues facing new Scots and refugee communities
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Proven ability to build and maintain partnerships with diverse stakeholders
- Proficiency in spoken and written English
- Experience in monitoring, evaluation, and report writing
- Ability to work independently and lead a team effectively

Preferred

- Experience working with diverse communities, particularly new Scots or refugees
- Understanding of community development principles and practices
- Familiarity with Edinburgh's community gardens or similar initiatives
- additional relevant languages are an asset