Prosper Project at University of Liverpool – Secondment opportunities to support online learning and development

The Project
Prosper is a new approach to career development that unlocks postdocs’ potential to thrive in multiple careers. Funded by Research England, our goal is to create a development model that is open to all UK postdocs, transforming the researcher career landscape nationally. The Project is based at the University of Liverpool and has been rolled out to our partners, the University of Manchester and Lancaster University, with national roll-out planned in mid-2023.

The Opportunity
We are looking for innovative and creative experts in technology enhanced learning and instructional design, able to support the on-going development of a sector-leading, flexible, open-source online portal of multi-media resources. You will have the opportunity to collaborate with our in-house teams and commissioned external providers to create a genuinely exciting step-change in the way this hugely valuable group of staff are supported to succeed.

This is your chance to join the Prosper Team, to work with over 90 employers, 120 postdocs and PIs across the 3 Universities to co-create the Prosper development model and portal.

We are offering flexible, full- or part-time secondments of up to 12 months, covering all or part of the brief below depending on skills and interests.

Grade: 7 (£35,327 - £40,928) or 8 (£42,149 - 53,348) depending on expertise and experience.

Key Activities will include:

- Develop the final specification for the Prosper portal ensuring it meets the needs of our key user groups in terms of functionality and content: postdocs, HE research staff, organisational developers and Principal Investigators.
- Lead and act as client-interface for the commissioning process for a 3rd party supplier, to build the Prosper portal.
- Collaborate with the Prosper Team and key stakeholders to map the resources on our prototype portal and ensure the final, interactive and engaging portal design meets the needs of multiple audiences.
- Convert the resources we have developed working with employers, our postdoc cohorts and PIs into e-learning and multimedia content for the final portal.
Create new e-learning and multimedia content as we continue to work with our postdocs, building on our ongoing stakeholder engagement with employers, PIs and organisational developers.

Bring expertise in online, blended and hybrid pedagogies to develop innovative resources designed to be inclusive and open to the diverse postdoc population.

The role(s) are varied and will require you to be organised, creative, supportive and open to change. You will enjoy working collaboratively and contributing new ideas within a vibrant team environment. You will have excellent communication and relationship-building skills and be able to work independently to deliver high-quality development solutions.

Prosper: Progress so far
We are working with 120 Postdoctoral researchers, using a cohort approach to enable a deep dive into how best to support their career progression. We have developed a prototype portal, currently available across the 3 partners, which houses a comprehensive set of resources and materials developed with employers, postdocs and PIs. As we enter the final period of the project, we are looking for new talent and fresh ideas to further develop our portal and resources ahead of national roll out.

The final portal will enable a range of flexible individual and organisational approaches that build on the Prosper model to enhance career development. This will include self-guided routes for postdocs, resources to support PIs in developing their postdocs and frameworks and resources to support researcher and organisational developers to embed the Prosper model within their in-house programmes. Our ambition is that the Prosper portal will be a living resource, owned and continuously developed by the communities it is designed to support.

Skills and Experience
If the opportunity to work with Prosper excites you and you think you can help us achieve the vision above, we are interested in hearing from you. While the secondment opportunities are purposely flexible, you will be able to bring elements of the skills and expertise below:

- A successful track record in designing and delivering online teaching / development resources in a Higher Education context.
- Experience of working with academics and cross-functional teams to shape and implement flexible development solutions that meet strategic and operational need.
- Expertise in the creation of high quality accessible and interactive multi-media resources.
- Experience of commissioning and managing external providers, ideally within the technology / learning sector, on time and within budget.
• Expertise in specific skills relevant to the project outcomes, for instance: designing within virtual learning environments, working with graphic design, animation, video creation and editing software.
• Managing budgets to deliver excellent value for money and return on investment.
• Current knowledge of emerging innovations in learning technology and web design.
• Ability to plan, prioritise and take initiative to deliver objectives within a complex project and / or organisation.
• Ability to build and sustain relationships with key stakeholders and interpret their requirements.

The Benefit
This is a fantastic opportunity for colleagues to share their expertise, build on their talents and extend their professional reputation and reach by helping to shape the outputs of the national Prosper project. It will provide a rare chance to work on a genuinely collaborative project, that reaches across traditional roles, institutional boundaries and into the wider economy. In addition, the home institutions of successfully appointed secondees will have the potential to be work with Prosper as early adopters, realising the benefits of the model and resources for their internal researcher communities.

How to Apply
These secondment opportunities are intended to be as flexible as possible, with colleagues supported to work virtually, though occasional face-to-face collaborations may be discussed and agreed. However, in line with our approach to hybrid working, opportunities to spend more time on campus can be accommodated, dependent on individual circumstances. If you are interested in taking up this opportunity and would like to know more we encourage an initial, informal conversation. Contact Natalie McCusker to arrange (N.E.McCusker@liverpool.ac.uk).

Apply via our jobs portal here. Please submit a CV and covering letter detailing your experience and what you feel you can bring to the project. Please confirm what size (FTE) and duration of secondment you are interested in.

The initial deadline is Monday 4th April 2022.