

Researcher Job Description

Research Associate/Assistant

The role

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To assist with delivering the aims and work programmes of a major multi-national and multi-institutional ESRC GCRF-funded project on 'Language development in the early years: tackling the roots of academic and social inequalities'.

Key responsibilities will be to contribute to qualitative and survey research work to

- 1) gain a detailed understanding of the services, policy and practice landscape in the Lebanon for the promotion of child language development,
- 2) Review curricula in early years early education and the training of early years practitioners to identify and understand the place of oral language promotion within them
- 3) codesign methods to public health, preventative methods to promote robust language development for all children of language rich environments in the early years.

The successful candidate will collaborate with researchers based at all of the project's sites and with government and non-government institutions in Newcastle, Plymouth, Lebanon, Egypt, Jordan, and the West Bank. They will comply with the University's policies, including Health & Safety, Equality and Diversity, Ethics, and Data Protection.

The post holder will gain experience in research, management and engagement activities in the areas of language development, education, and speech and language therapy. They will experience working as part of a large multi-disciplinary team and the use of technology for online collaboration and the development of free materials and resources for language development. They will gain experience in collaborating with non-academic professionals, parents and volunteer organisations. They will contribute to the UN goals of sustainable development, particularly good health and wellbeing, quality education, gender equality and reduced inequalities. Where practical, they will gain contribute to the School teaching through supervision of projects, overseeing practical classes, or taking small group classes.

Key Accountabilities

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- Organising qualitative and survey data collection and dissemination in Lebanon
- Engaging in engagement activities to disseminate study findings and resources

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- Ensuring that personal knowledge in relevant fields of study is kept up to date
- Supporting and engaging in research methodologies that add to the knowledge/understanding of the area of language development
- Conducting research-related administration e.g., organisation of meetings and documentation, and ensuring accurate and timely formal reporting and financial control.
- Providing expert advice in own subject area to other team members.
- Training/supervising and providing pastoral care to research students on projects, field trips and placements
- Liaising with NGOs supporting refugees in Lebanon.
- Engaging with relevant professional bodies, external organisations and other users of academic facilities.
- Advising on co-designing user-friendly digital health and education tools.
- Developing and sustaining links with relevant organisations to grow collaborations, employability and funding support.
- Undertaking relevant training and development activities to develop capacity for taking on wider responsibilities.
- Supporting team members as well as occasionally taking the lead in preparing high quality publication materials for referred journals, presenting results at conferences (including national and international), or exhibiting work at other appropriate events

The Person (Essential)

Knowledge, Skills and Experience

- Deep understanding of the Middle-East context in terms of educational provision, curricula and development and outcomes of young children.
- Ability to carry out literature searches and surveys
- Experience in the acquisition of research data
- Either
 - Qualitative data collection and analysis experience and skills
- Or
 - Detailed knowledge of pre-school educational research and policy in the Lebanon, particularly with respect to the early years
- Experience in the interpretation of research data and results

Attributes and Behaviour

Drives innovation and action:

- Use initiative and creativity to analyse and interpret research data and draw conclusions on the outcomes
- Intellectual agility for the solving of problems

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Demonstrates the ability to balance personal needs with the University's strategic objectives:

- Self-awareness with the ability to accept different views and self-regulate approach appropriately.
- Work to deadlines and manage, with support, competing priorities
- Skilled approach to planning, managing, organising and objectively assessing own research contributions.

Ability to operate amidst change and ambiguity:

- Ability to take a long-term holistic view and remain focussed during times of change and uncertainty.
- Ability to remain resilient, flexible and work with conflicting priorities.

Builds and secures value from relationships:

- Working effectively and collegiately as a part of an interdisciplinary team.
- Fostering and developing good relationships between own School and the wider University, and with external partners.

Qualifications

- Masters in relevant discipline of Education, Speech and Language Therapy, or Health Sciences.
- Good level of analytical skills and the ability to communicate complex information clearly, both orally and through the written word