

RESEARCH OFFICER: JOB DESCRIPTION

Job title:	Research Officer (maternity cover)
Area:	Research
Salary band:	£23,000-£30,000 per annum pro rata
Location:	Bethnal Green, London
Line manager:	Amanda Hill-Dixon, Senior Researcher
Start date:	W/c 3 rd April or w/c 10 th April

This is a fixed-term maternity cover post for nine months (for 4 or 5 days per week – to be agreed), with the possibility of extension.

Overview

Inequalities are widespread and complex and affect many areas of people's lives. The Young Foundation is a research and action institute with a track record of confronting these inequalities. We work across the UK and internationally to create insight and social innovations which put people at the heart of social change.

We are seeking an experienced Research Officer to conduct a range of research, including ethnographic fieldwork, which supports The Young Foundation in its mission. Key projects are likely to include:

- Place based ethnographic fieldwork as part of our [Amplify programme](#) which facilitates community-led regeneration and social innovation
- Desktop research and analysis related to global social innovation practice and development
- Desktop and primary qualitative research on social innovation in education which tackles educational inequality

This is an important role which requires a research professional with a rounded skill set, especially ethnographic and qualitative research skills. The role will require regular travel within the UK and occasional travel to Europe.

Purpose of role

The purpose of the role is to deliver high quality research and to work with the Research Team, other Young Foundation colleagues and external partners to achieve this.

What we have to offer

This is a fixed term maternity cover contract for nine months with the possibility of extension. We are ideally looking for somebody to start the role w/c 3rd April or w/c 10th April.

The role offers:

- A nine month contract for 4-5 days per week (to be agreed);
- £23,000-£30,000 per annum pro rata. The salary will depend on skills, knowledge and relevant experience;
- Auto enrolment into a generous pension scheme;
- 25 days holiday per year, pro rata;
- The opportunity to make a significant contribution to major and high-profile projects related to researching and tackling inequality and social innovation;
- Offices in Bethnal Green, on the central line and 15 minutes from the centre of London.

Duties of the role

- Carrying out qualitative fieldwork, often taking an ethnographic approach, in different locations and contexts across the UK. It is likely that the role will involve substantial fieldwork in Scotland, including overnight stays.
- Delivery of particular work strands relating to our research. This will include taking personal responsibility for key elements of work as well as supporting others in the team
- Carrying out desktop research, using a range of methods and sources of data, related to inequality and social innovation practice globally.
- Conducting qualitative analysis of primary and secondary data.
- Working closely with others as part of a team and with stakeholders and local partners to manage relationships and deliver work.
- Producing high quality and varied research outputs for a range of audiences including analysis, report writing and presentations where necessary
- Making sure our work is participatory, including working with and training peer researchers and valuing the importance of communicating with different audiences.
- Taking responsibility for data and project management and administration as it relates to delivering work.
- Any other duties as required by the line manager in line with the grade of the post.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Prior experience - essential

- Experience in using qualitative field-based research methods, such as ethnography, gained either through a postgraduate degree in a relevant subject area or comparable experience gained through work
- Background in having achieved a level of training, knowledge and practical experience of applying a range of qualitative social research methods (e.g. a postgraduate degree in social science)

- Experience of having conducted robust desktop research and knowledge of a range of methodologies for doing this
- Evidence of ability to grasp complex concepts and debates quickly and to engage with these effectively through research
- Able to lead work packages and deliver work in different areas on time
- Evidence of having worked in group settings and / or as part of a cross-organisational or inter-organisational team
- Ability to communicate effectively about research findings to a range of audiences
- Evidence of initiative and being a self-starter
- Evidence of having delivered or contributed to the delivery of high quality social research outputs

Prior experience – desirable

- PhD or demonstrable knowledge of a subject area which prioritises ethnographic methods and their theoretical framework and analysis such as one of the following areas: Anthropology, Sociology or Human Geography
- Experience of participatory work and experience in working with peer researchers
- Previous experience of working on research-to-practice projects
- Previous experience and knowledge of quantitative research and analysis
- Evidence of having been involved in successful bid writing
- A subject interest in inequality, community-based solutions and/or social innovation
- Social research publications

How to apply

Please apply using a CV (of no more than two pages) and a covering letter (of no more than one page) setting out where you saw the advert and how your skills and relevant experience relate to the person specification. Email these documents to applications@youngfoundation.org

The covering letter should give details of your current role, salary and notice period, and confirmation that you are a British or EU Citizen or otherwise have the right to work in the UK.

The closing date for applications is **9am on Monday 20th March**

Interviews will take place on **Tuesday 28th March and Wednesday 29th March**

We regret that we will only be able to reply, and give feedback, to short-listed applicants.

For any questions about this role or about the application process, please contact Amanda Hill-Dixon on +44 20 8990 6263.

The Young Foundation

For more information about The Young Foundation and its work, go to www.youngfoundation.org

The Young Foundation is an equal opportunities employer and positively encourages applications from suitably qualified and eligible candidates regardless of sex, race, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, religion or belief, marital status, or pregnancy and maternity