



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

## CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Assistant in improving the educational and social outcomes for deaf children of Roma families, Faculty of Education, Social Sciences and Law



**Salary: Grade 6 (£26,495– £31,604 p.a. pro rata)**

**Reference: ESLED1043**

**Closing date: 11 December 2017**

**Part time, 30% of full time equivalent, fixed-term for 10 months**

## **Research Assistant in improving the educational and social outcomes for deaf children of Roma families**

### **School of Education, Faculty of Education, Social Sciences and Law**

**Do you have an interest in the education of deaf children/language and cultural diversity in the context of Roma communities in the UK? Do you want to further your career in one of the UK's leading research intensive Universities?**

You will work with Professor Ruth Swanwick (PI) and Dr Jackie Salter in the School of Education and national deaf education partners on a project funded by the Leeds Social Sciences Institute to examine the educational and social needs of deaf children of Roma families.

With a successfully completed PhD (this includes work submitted for assessment, but not yet examined) in a relevant field of study, you will have research interests in deaf children's language and social development and/or the linguistic and cultural biographies of children in Roma communities and the development of appropriate multi professional support.

You will work with deaf education and related professionals and Deaf and Roma organisations to gather information from a range of sources and individuals. You will possess excellent analytical and writing skills and the ability to deal with a variety of tasks to set deadlines. The ability to work alone and as part of a team are essential, along with strong organisational and excellent communication skills.

You will also work with members of the School of Education to organise research events, assist in publishing in peer-reviewed journals and be involved in producing short reports on the research findings for various academic, professional and non-professional audiences during your time on this project.

The post will involve regular UK travel to deaf education schools and services to collect demographic and case study information, for national networking meetings and conference organisation.



## What does the role entail?

As a Research Assistant your main duties will include:

- Working with and supporting Professor Ruth Swanwick on her research agenda, research projects and publications;
- Being an active researcher, conducting research, planning and undertaking fieldwork/conferences and analysing data;
- Under guidance, drafting project reports and preparing conference talks and project report contributions;
- Coordinating the academic and project partners and organising the networking and conference events ;
- Developing impact and engagement activities with a wide group stakeholders;
- Being involved in presenting research findings to academic and professional audiences and communicating complex data in accessible ways;
- Assisting with developing and supporting research applications and proposals for funding in the specified research area;
- Contributing to research planning and development within the School, where appropriate;
- Balancing the competing pressures of research demands and deadlines.

These duties provide a framework for the role and should not be regarded as a definitive list. Other reasonable duties may be required consistent with the grade of the post.

## What will you bring to the role?

As a Research Assistant you will have:

- A PhD (this includes work submitted for assessment, but not yet examined) in a relevant area of study such as deaf education and deaf studies, child development, language and linguistics, migration (Roma) studies or disability in the context of migration;
- Knowledge of the context of deaf education and studies and/or Roma and migration education and studies;
- Experience of successfully conducting qualitative research in educational settings and with educational professionals;
- Experience of presenting research findings to professional and/or academic audiences;



- Experience in public engagement and impact activities;
- Experience in writing project and grant applications;
- Advanced knowledge of issues of ethics in research and experience of ethics research applications;
- Excellent organisational skills with a demonstrable ability to manage time effectively, to prioritise tasks and meet internal and external deadlines;
- A high level of interpersonal and communication skills, including ability to communicate effectively with the academic lead researcher and other stakeholders as appropriate;
- Good general IT skills;
- Ability to work independently and on own initiative;
- Ability to demonstrate judgement in planning and carrying out activities.

You may also have:

- Knowledge of British and/or another Sign Language;
- Experience of research with deaf participants/communities;
- Experience of research with Roma participants/communities;
- Experience of conducting qualitative research with children and families;
- Experience in managing web content (through Wordpress-based platform) and social media communication.

## How to apply

You can apply for this role online; more guidance can be found on our [How to Apply](#) information page. Applications should be submitted by **23.59** (UK time) on the advertised closing date.

## Contact information

To explore the post further or for any queries you may have, please contact:

**Professor Ruth Swanwick, Professor of Deaf Education**

Tel: +44 (0)113 343 4582

Email: [r.a.swanwick@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:r.a.swanwick@leeds.ac.uk)



## Additional information

### About the job

You will be responsible the Dean of the Faculty and report to the Head of School (with day to day line management by the Principal Investigator and Co-Investigators).

This project builds on the established work of Professor Swanwick and colleagues and the Language Planning Tool that was developed for describing and documenting the language biographies and repertoires of multilingual deaf children.

The project will bring together academics, educational, health, charity and community partners to identify the learning, development and social needs of deaf children of Roma families, plan appropriate multi-professional intervention and support and establish a national stakeholder group to ensure the reach, development and sustainability of the outcomes.

Under the direction of the Principal Investigator you will prepare the ethical approval documentation, collate nationally available demographic data and collect case study information from Local Authorities, schools, teachers and families in the context of deaf education.

You will coordinate the project network meetings and the final national dissemination conference. You will facilitate communication across the project participants and support the development of the wider national group of stakeholders and beneficiaries. You will undertake a scoping review of the research and grey literature to inform the direction and support the development of the follow-on bid.

### Working at Leeds

Find out more about the benefits of working at the University and what it is like to live and work in the Leeds area on our [Working at Leeds](#) information page.

### Candidates with disabilities

Information for candidates with disabilities, impairments or health conditions, including requesting alternative formats, can be found on our [Accessibility](#) information page or by getting in touch with us at [disclosure@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:disclosure@leeds.ac.uk).



# Criminal record information

## Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974

This post requires an enhanced criminal record check from the disclosure and Barring Service (DBS), and any equivalent overseas authorities were relevant. The successful candidate will be required to give consent for the University to check their criminal record status. All applicants are required to make a self-declaration where applicable

Any offer of appointment will be subject to the University being satisfied with the outcome of these checks, in accordance with our Criminal Records Policy. You can find out more about required checks and declarations in our [Criminal Records information page](#).

