



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Assistant

Leeds University Business School



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

Reference: LUBSC1300

Closing date: 15 May 2018

Fixed term for 12 Months

Part time, 70% of full time

Research Assistant Leeds University Business School

Are you an early career researcher looking for your first challenge? Do you have a background in employment or disability studies? Do you want to further your career in one of the UK's leading research intensive Universities? Do you have experience of working with people with learning disabilities and a strong commitment to the inclusion of people with learning disabilities in employment and society?

We are looking for an academic researcher to join our team to help to bring insights from academic literature to the execution and analysis of the Learning by doing together project.

The learning by doing together is an innovative community-university participatory action research project designed to co-create new job opportunities for people with learning disabilities in their own services. The new jobs will be peer support worker jobs. In these jobs people with learning disabilities will work as support workers to service users. The project has been initiated by CHANGE together with the University of Leeds. CHANGE is a local human rights organisation led by disabled people and working to build an inclusive society where people with learning disabilities are treated equally.

Three service provider organisations ('the partner organisations') want to use the skills and abilities of people with learning disabilities in their service provision. They are working with CHANGE and the University of Leeds to work out how to do it. We have all formed an inquiry group to work together to create new peer support worker jobs in each of the three organisations.

The exciting part is that we want people with learning disabilities to lead the project. An academic from the University of Leeds has worked with people with learning disabilities at CHANGE to develop the research questions and overarching research design. A core member of the research team is an experienced project worker who has a learning disability. She is working with a non-learning disabled co-worker and academics from the University of Leeds to lead the design and use of inclusive research methods. The project will continue between February 2018 and the summer of 2019



A note about language. You will have noticed that we have used the term 'people with learning disabilities' within this advert. On this project we subscribe to the social model of disability. We understand that people are disabled, not by impairments but by society. We use the term 'people with learning disabilities' to refer to people who have been given a label of 'learning disability'. We note that some people prefer and use the term 'learning difficulties'. The people with learning disabilities at CHANGE prefer the term 'learning disability'. When CHANGE was first set up (in 1994), people with learning disabilities at CHANGE wanted to campaign for changes for all disabled people, including people with learning disabilities. They wanted to be seen as part of the 'disability' movement. This is why CHANGE prefers the term 'disability'.

What does the role entail?

As Research Assistant your main duties will include:

- Working in partnership with researchers at CHANGE to coproduce inclusive research with key actors (including people with learning disabilities) within the partner organisations.
- Participating in an action research by becoming part of an inquiry group made up of disabled and non-disabled researchers and disabled and non-disabled organisational actors.
- Working under the lead of people with learning disabilities to design and facilitate inclusive planning workshops, interviews and focus groups with people who have learning disabilities and people who do not.
- Collaborating with people with learning disabilities to find ways to collate and analyse data in an inclusive way;
- Writing reports, undertaking literature reviews and preparing papers for publication, including finding creative ways to disseminate research findings in accessible formats with guidance as necessary;
- Working both independently and as part of a larger team of researchers and stakeholders involving people with learning disabilities;
- Supporting research activities, including contributing to research results and outputs and to the generation of independent and original ideas, ensuring a successful programme of investigation;
- Participating in the research group and presenting research outputs where appropriate;
- Contributing to the research culture of the School, where appropriate;



- Continually updating your knowledge, understanding and skills in the research field.

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 Research Assistant you will have:

- A First Degree/ Masters/ PhD in the subject area or a closely allied discipline;
- A strong background in either employment or disability studies, preferably in both;
- Experience of and a strong commitment to working with disabled people, ideally on inclusive research.
- Good interpersonal and communication skills, both written and verbal and the ability to communicate creatively and effectively with a wide range of stakeholders;
- Well-developed analytical skills;
- Good time management and planning skills, with the ability to meet tight deadlines;
- A proven ability to work well both individually and in a team;
- The ability to work unsupervised and to use your own initiative.

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:

Dr Elizabeth Oliver

Tel: +44 (0) 113 343 6815

Email: E.A.Oliver@lubs.leeds.ac.uk



Additional information

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.

Criminal record information

Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974

A criminal record check is not required for this position. However, all applicants will be required to declare if they have any 'unspent' criminal offences, including those pending.

Any offer of appointment will be in accordance with our Criminal Records policy. You can find out more about required checks and declarations in our [Criminal Records](#) information page.

