CANDIDATE BRIEF
Post-Doctoral Research Assistant: Evaluating the Policy Impact of Arts and Humanities Research and Methodologies on International Development Projects with Local Communities,

Salary: Grade 7 (£33,199 – £39,609 p.a.) Please note that due to funding restrictions the salary will be capped at £35,211 p.a
Reference: AHCLC1075
Closing date: 11 March 2019

Fixed-term from January 2019 to 31st December 2021
Post-Doctoral Research Assistant
School of Languages, Cultures & Societies
Faculty of Arts, Humanities & Cultures

Are you an ambitious early-career researcher looking for your next challenge? Do you possess a Ph.D drawing on quantitative and qualitative evaluation methodologies, have a commitment to Arts and Humanities research, participatory arts and community engagement, and have a passion for International Development? Do you want to further your career in one of the UK’s leading research intensive Universities?

**Project Title:** Maximising the Impact of AHRC GCRF Portfolio

The Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) is a £1.5 billion fund to support cutting-edge research that addresses the challenges faced by developing countries. The Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) has funded more than 100 projects through the GCRF, including many through collaborative programmes with other research councils (e.g. with NERC on Resilience, with ESRC on Forced Displacement, and with MRC on Global Public Health). These projects bring Arts and Humanities research and methodologies to bear on development challenges including conflict, migration/forced displacement, resilience in the face of climate change and natural disasters, gender equality, and disease, wellbeing and secure livelihoods. There are strong indications that the Arts and Humanities are making a significant contribution to the GCRF’s interdisciplinary approach to tackling the SDGs, especially in adapting development approaches to local cultures and in promoting community engagement and participatory methods.

However, there is an urgent need to both evaluate and draw out this impact, at scale, and in ways that can be made relevant to policy-makers and other non-academic partners.

To this end, Professor Stuart Taberner and Professor Paul Cooke have been awarded funding by the AHRC to:

- Identify and draw out synergies across AHRC-funded GCRF projects, around thematic clusters such as resilience, global health, forced displacement and conflict;
- maximise learning across GCRF projects by developing thinking around A&H methodologies and their relevance for the global challenges;
Convene a series of major conferences and smaller events to promote this learning, but also to lead to a set of keystone reports on the contribution of Arts and Humanities research and methodologies to Sustainable Development Goals. These reports will present evaluation, analysis and policy recommendations.

We are looking for an exceptional postdoctoral research fellow to work with us on shaping and running these events (with the support of our administrative team) and—vitally—to undertake quantitative and qualitative evaluation work and author 5-6 keystone reports. The role holder will also be supported to develop an independent portfolio of publications related to one or more of the thematic areas being explored.

This is a challenging role that requires strong social-science skills as well as an understanding of the relevance of Arts and Humanities research for global development, and an ability to distill research outcomes for policy-makers.

You will be based within the Leeds Arts and Humanities Research Institute (LAHRI) and part of a wider team of colleagues working on Arts and Humanities GCRF projects. This project is led by Professor Stuart Taberner, and is part of a larger AHRC GCRF Project (Changing the Story), led by Professor Paul Cooke.

**What does the role entail?**

- Co-creating with relevant stakeholders (from policy makers to community partners) project meetings, seminars and workshops;
- Analysis of quantitative and qualitative data from relevant projects from across the GCRF portfolio;
- Working with the team to share learning across the GCRF portfolio;
- Communicating results and insights to relevant audiences (e.g. policy makers, community partners, academics). This will include primary authorship of 5-6 major policy reports;
- Building on the project’s findings to develop an independent portfolio of publications related to one or more of the thematic areas being explored.
- Maintaining your own continuing professional development.
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?**

You will have:
- A demonstrable enthusiasm for Art and Humanities research and methodologies.
- A first degree and PhD (or equivalent research experience) in a relevant discipline;
- Demonstrated experience of conducting quantitative and qualitative research;
- Demonstrated experience of working with relevant non-academic stakeholders;
- Proven ability to write to the standard required for research reports/international publications;
- Good time management and planning skills, with the ability to meet tight deadlines and work effectively under pressure;
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills including presentation skills and the ability to communicate effectively with a wide range of stakeholders;
- Excellent organisational and project management skills;
- A proven ability to work well both individually and in a team;

Desirable to have:
- Demonstrated experience of preparing policy reports;
- Experience of using arts-based methods with community groups;
- Experience of working in a development setting.

**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 Stuart Taberner  
Email: s.j.taberner@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.