



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Chair in Disability Studies and Inclusion, Faculty of Social Sciences



Salary: Grade 10 (within Professorial range)

Reference: ESLSS1055

Closing date: 5 January 2020

Part-time - 50% FTE

Professor of Disability Studies and Inclusion School of Sociology and Social Policy, Faculty of Social Sciences

Are you an outstanding academic whose work engages with critical sociologies? Are you enthusiastic about research and teaching in Disability Studies and Inclusion? Do you have an established track-record and international profile in this field of disability studies and inclusion? Would you like to contribute to the work of the Centre for Disability Studies, playing a significant role in the development of this world-leading Centre? Do you share our passion for providing students with educational experiences that foster their critical thinking? Are you ready to inspire and mentor a strong group of researchers and educators based in a Russell Group University and School ranked in the top 100 for Sociology globally (QS rankings) and able to support and complement our existing strengths in critical sociologies?

Since 1946 the School of Sociology and Social Policy has been a leading international university department for theoretically-engaged, socially-relevant and broadly conceived critical sociologies. The School provides one of the largest university environments for research and teaching in sociology and social policy in the UK and continues the proud tradition of social sciences in Leeds that began in 1909 soon after the University itself was founded. The School pioneered Disability Studies and is home to the internationally recognised Centre for Disability Studies and Centre for Interdisciplinary Gender Studies, Centre for Ethnicity and Racism Studies, Bauman Institute and Centre for Families, Life Course and Generations. The School has played a prominent role in the development of realist methodologies and qualitative longitudinal research, social theory, the study of gender, sexualities, life course, youth and family research and the articulation between critical race theory and postcolonial/decolonial studies.

As a world-class research-active academic you will contribute to national and international debates and developments within the field of Disability Studies. More widely, via your strategic leadership, mentorship and own research will make a contribution to the School of Sociology and Social Policy's research profile and help achieve its research objectives. You will support the development of a vibrant and inclusive research culture and learning environment within the School.



You will also contribute to Disability Studies teaching, particularly at postgraduate level (Masters and PhD/doctoral), working to enhance the student experience. You will play a key role in maintaining and developing the reputation of the Centre for Disability Studies for research and teaching excellence and its position as one of the leading Centres in its field, globally. You will make a significant contribution to the School's innovative, interdisciplinary and international research, to its knowledge-exchange and impact activities and to its public profile.

What does the role entail?

As Chair in Disability Studies and Inclusion, your main duties will include:

- Conducting excellent research, knowledge-exchange and impact activities and maintaining of your own national and international research profile, to include a portfolio of excellent international quality publications;
- Contributing to academic development, direction and strategic research leadership at the Centre for Disability Studies, the School, Faculty and University;
- Maintaining a leading profile within your field/discipline via relevant activities, e.g. journal editorship, keynotes, visiting professorships, positions at funding bodies and/or professional organisations, consultancy and advisory roles (indicative list only);
- Building and sustaining relationships with external bodies to develop the innovation, impact and internationalisation agendas of the Centre for Disability Studies and School;
- Contributing to the generation of research income through your own research funding (individual and/or in collaboration with others), mentorship of other School researchers in the preparation of funding bids, development of research networks and/or partnerships with external organisations;
- Supporting and mentoring less experienced academic and research staff to promote career development and the nurture of academic talent within the School;
- Fostering a vibrant and sustainable research culture, community and environment in the School;
- Attracting high-quality postgraduate research students to the University and provision of excellent supervision which supports their timely completion and subsequent employability;



- Inspiring students through research-led learning and teaching activities and contributing to School and, as appropriate, Faculty initiatives to promote world-class education and ensuring an exceptional student experience;
- Providing high-quality pastoral support of students as members of a diverse, inclusive and international learning community.

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 Chair in Disability Studies and Inclusion, you will:

- Have a PhD or other doctorate in a relevant discipline or equivalent research experience;
- Be recognised as a research-leader/influential in your field;
- Have expertise in and experience of conducting research in the field of Disability Studies and Inclusion;
- Have a track-record of high-quality research outputs, including a portfolio of internationally excellent quality publications;
- Have a strong government and/or civil society engagement/impact record;
- Have a track-record of funded projects and the potential to secure further external funding individually and/or collaboratively;
- Have a clear research agenda that complements/adds to the research strategy of the School;
- Have experience of senior and strategic academic leadership/management roles, possess imagination and capacity to identify opportunities;
- Have international connections and be able to foster networking between the School and relevant academic and/or non-academic partners;
- Have experience of academic mentoring and support for the career development of less experienced colleagues;
- Demonstrate excellent organisational and communication skills;
- Evidence understanding of the principles of research-led teaching and track-record of delivering an excellent student experience;
- Have experience of successful supervision of postgraduate research students;
- Be collegiate and share our commitment to criticality, inclusivity and contribution.



You may also:

- Be willing and able to contribute to wider teaching or supervision in the School in areas such as sociological theory, policy studies, sociology of childhood and youth or sociology of education (indicative list only);
- Be willing to spend short periods of time overseas for teaching or undertaking ambassadorial duties for the Centre for Disability Studies or School.

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.

As part of the application process, you will be required to provide the following:

1. A statement addressing the criteria and how you believe your existing knowledge and experience equips you to carry out the role.
2. A curriculum vitae.

We are committed to promoting a diverse workforce and welcome applications from all sections of the community irrespective of age, sex, sexual orientation, 'race', religious beliefs or disability.

Contact information

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

Professor S. Sayyid, Head of School

Tel: +44 (0)113 343 7008

Email: s.sayyid@leeds.ac.uk



Additional information

About the role

You will be responsible to the Executive Dean of Faculty and report to the Head of School.

Find out more about our [Faculty of Social Sciences](#).

Find out more about our [School of Sociology and Social Policy](#).

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 accordance with our Criminal Records policy. You can find out more about required checks and declarations in our Criminal Records information page.

