



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

## CANDIDATE BRIEF

Post-Doctoral Research Assistant, School of Languages, Cultures and Societies, Faculty of Arts, Humanities & Cultures



**Salary: Grade 6 (£27,511 - £32,817 pro rata)**

**Reference: AHCLC1105**

**Part-time/Fixed Term – From 1<sup>st</sup> February 2020 to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2020 – 18 hours per week**



## Post-Doctoral Research Assistant: Understanding Youth Voice in Global Development, School of Languages, Cultures & Societies, Faculty of Arts, Humanities & Cultures

Are you an ambitious early-career researcher looking for a short-term appointment to use your skills in research synthesis to contribute to an exciting AHRC Global Challenges Research Fund project, working in partnership with the University of Leeds and the British Council and to build your C.V.?

We are currently seeking to recruit a four-month Postdoctoral Research Assistant to work with [Changing the Story](#). This is a four-year, youth-focussed participatory action research programme investigating how civil society organisations in twelve post-conflict ODA countries can best support young people actively to shape their societies. We currently manage a portfolio of 22 projects that range from investigating youth-led social entrepreneurship in Malaysia and Cambodia to working with a number of Ministries of Education and Social Development in order to create national curricula on a range of topics, including critical and creative thinking (Rwanda and Kenya) civic education (Kosovo, Kenya and Nepal) and youth leadership (South Africa).

Our key partner in this project is the British Council, the UK's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. The British Council works with over 100 countries across the world in the fields of arts and culture, English language, education and civil society. It has years of experience of supporting young people globally to actively participate in their societies, not least through its very successful [Active Citizens](#) programme and [Next Generation](#) research series.

The aim of the PDRA position is to produce a report that synthesises the key research findings from both Changing the Story and the British Council's work in order to maximise the learning from this work for both organisations and to organise a policy-focussed event where its findings can be shared with the wider community of youth-focussed development organisations.

You will work directly with Professor Paul Cooke (Principal Investigator of Changing the Story) and Christine Wilson (Head of Research, British Council), with the option of being based either at Leeds or with the British Council in one of their UK locations. You will have access to both locations, wherever you are based.

Specifically, and in addition having the strong logistical and administrative skills required to organise the policy event, we are looking for a well-qualified individual with



expertise in youth-led Global Development who understands how to communicate academic research to policy makers.

### **What does the role entail?**

As a Post-Doctoral Research Assistant, your main duties will include:

- Analysing data (qualitative and quantitative) that has been collected by Changing the Story and the British Council, the latter in particular with a focus on Next Generation data;
- Organising meetings with relevant stakeholders to discuss these data.
- Preparing a report based on this analysis that can be variously used with researchers, research funders, NGOs, and policy-makers;
- Preparing proposals for future research projects, particularly concerning more effective use of combined Next Generation datasets
- Helping with logistical and administrative arrangements for the report launch event.
- Helping with communications in order to publicise this work, the report and launch event through the project website and social media;
- Presenting the report as required to funders, NGOs, and policy-makers.

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 Post-Doctoral Research Assistant you will have:

- A Ph.D. in an area relevant to youth-led development
- A good understanding of development and global challenges;
- Advanced quantitative analysis skills and a desire to learn more;
- Excellent qualitative analysis skills;
- Proven ability to write to the standard required for research reports and international publications;



- Excellent organisational and project management skills, with the ability to meet tight deadlines and work effectively under pressure;
- Excellent inter-personal skills;
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills, including presentation skills and the ability to communicate effectively with a wide range of stakeholders;
- A proven ability to work well both individually and in a team, with an open mind-set.

You may also have:

- Experience of using participatory action research methods
- Experience of arts-based approaches to development

## 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 Paul Cooke, Principal Investigator, Changing the Story**

Email: [p.cooke@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:p.cooke@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](mailto: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.

