



**UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS**

**CANDIDATE BRIEF – Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, Music Culture in the Age of Streaming (Position 1: Platforms, Industry, Music Creators, Policy)**

**School of Media and Communication, Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Cultures**



**Grade 7 (£34,304 - £40,927 pa)**

**Reference: AHCMC1066**

**Fixed-term: 1 June 2022 to 31 May 2026**

**We will consider job share and flexible working arrangements**



## School of Media and Communication, Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Cultures

**Are you an ambitious researcher looking for your next challenge? Do you want to participate in a major project analysing the ways in which music culture, musical experiences and the music industries are changing in the age of streaming platforms? Do you want to further your career in one of the UK's leading research-intensive Universities?**

The School of Media and Communication at the University of Leeds is a highly ranked department with a commitment to excellence in both research and teaching. We are ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> in the UK for Communication and Media Studies (Complete University Guide 2021) and 32<sup>nd</sup> in the world for Communication and Media Studies (QS World University Rankings by Subject 2021). In the 2014 Research Excellence Framework we ranked in the top ten departments in the UK with 82% of our research judged to be either 'world leading' or 'internationally excellent'.

The School of Media and Communication wishes to recruit three fixed-term Post-Doctoral Research Fellows working full-time from 1 June 2022 to 31 May 2026. You will join *Music Culture in the Age of Streaming* (MUSICSTREAM), a research project funded by an Advanced Research Grant from the European Research Council, awarded to Professor David Hesmondhalgh. The project runs from December 2021 to December 2026.

**This candidate brief is for the role of Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, Music Culture in the Age of Streaming (1): Platforms, Industry, Music Creators, Policy. The candidate briefs for two further Research Fellow roles on this project can also be found, and applications submitted, through the following links:**

- Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, Music Culture in the Age of Streaming (Position 2: Users, Experiences, Emotions, Pleasures) <https://jobs.leeds.ac.uk/AHCMC1067>
- Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, Music Culture in the Age of Streaming (Position 3: China) <https://jobs.leeds.ac.uk/AHCMC1068>

### **Our commitment to inclusion**

As an international research-intensive university with a strong commitment to student education, we aim to create an inclusive environment that attracts, supports and retains the best students and staff from all backgrounds and from across the world.

In line with this vision, the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Cultures is committed to fostering a culture of inclusion, respect and equality of opportunity. We select candidates on the basis of merit and ability and aspire to further diversify our Faculty community. We particularly welcome and encourage applications from candidates belonging to groups that have been under-represented in the University including, but



not limited to: Black, Asian and ethnically diverse people; people who identify as LGBT+; and people with disabilities.

## What does the role entail?

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

- Responsibility for using a variety of research methods to analyse music streaming services, the changing nature of the music industries, and the changing nature of musical culture and experience
- Administrative tasks associated with the research project, including project planning, progress updates and dissemination, as well as the organization of advisory board meetings and public events.
- The organization of workshops and events associated with the research project together with the PI and Co-I.
- Collaborative preparation of papers for publication.
- Project and events management; ensuring the project meets key milestones; leading on the logistics associated with project workshops, board meetings, and events; and ensuring all stakeholders are aware of the project's progress in a timely manner.
- The ongoing review and synthesis of existing literature within the field, including academic research and policy documents.
- Networking and stakeholder management with a view to maximise impact of research and opportunities for dissemination.
- Managing the project website and social media accounts.
- Working both independently and also as part of a larger team of researchers, engaging in knowledge-transfer activities where appropriate and feasible;
- Contributing to the research culture of the School of Media and Communication, where appropriate;
- Contributing to the training of both undergraduate and postgraduate students, where appropriate, including assisting with the supervision of projects in areas relevant to the project. Also acting as a mentor to less experienced colleagues as appropriate.

More specifically, the duties of Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, Music Culture in the Age of Streaming (1) will include:

- Undertaking research, under the supervision of Professor Hesmondhalgh, about the role of music streaming services in the current musical “eco-system”, their changing business models, interfaces, algorithms, playlists, data collection and analysis, and their relationships with social media and other platforms.





- Investigating the changing ways in which professional, semi-professional and amateur musicians currently use MSS to distribute music, changing relationships with music streaming services and other key intermediaries.
- Investigating public debate about these issues, and the different views, concerns and lobbying/campaigning activities of different stakeholder groups.
- Working with the international project advisory group, analyse international dimensions of the above issues.

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 Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, you will have:

- A first degree and PhD in Media and Communication Studies, Sociology, Music, or a closely related field. Your PhD thesis must have been submitted for examination by the time you apply for you to be considered eligible for the role, i.e. you can apply while awaiting your viva voce exam.
- A background in one or more of the following areas: media industry studies, music industry studies, digital platform studies, science and technology studies, cultural sociology, ethnomusicology, popular music studies.
- The proven ability to generate academic peer reviewed outputs and/or industry reports and/or policy briefings.
- Experience in data collection and analysis with the ability to investigate emerging issues, including international dimensions.
- 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.
- The proven ability to manage competing demands effectively, responsibly and without close support.
- A proven ability to work well both individually and in a team.
- A strong commitment to your own continuous professional development.

You may also have:

- Experience of collaboration with media industries (e.g. journalism, music business).
- Experience of project administration.



## Additional information on Music Culture in the Age of Streaming (MUSICSTREAM)

Hundreds of millions of people across the world now experience music via 'streaming services', which offer on-demand access, by means of internet or mobile telephony, to vast catalogues of music, either 'free' (advertising-supported) or via subscription. A controversial but poorly-understood new system of music production, distribution and consumption has developed around such services, but until now there has been a lack of sustained, integrated analysis of this system, the considerable international variations within it, and its implications for musical culture.

MUSICSTREAM provides such analysis, focusing on the UK and China, but also bringing together research from across the world via symposia and collaborative publication, assisted by an international advisory board. There is a strong emphasis on international variation in the project.

The project therefore offers an ambitious empirical and theoretical analysis that will also contribute to understanding how culture, political economy and technology interact in the digital era. Questions of power and identity concerning race, ethnicity, gender, class, age, sexuality and able-bodiedness are expected to figure strongly across the research.

Working with the Principal Investigator, Professor David Hesmondhalgh, and Co-Investigator Dr Qu Shuwen (Jinan University, China), you will carry out research on music culture in the age of streaming. You will be a key member of the research team with the chance to generate significant knowledge at the intersection of the social sciences and humanities. You will provide research support to the project as needed, and you will also receive significant mentoring from a variety of individual and institutional sources.

### 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.

We anticipate that interviews will be held by video conferencing software during the week commencing 10 January.

### Contact information



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

**Professor David Hesmondhalgh**

Email: [d.j.hesmondhalgh@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:d.j.hesmondhalgh@leeds.ac.uk)

## Additional information

### Candidates with disabilities

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

### Working at Leeds

You can find out more about our generous benefits package and more about what it is like to work at the University and live in the Leeds area in our [Working at Leeds](#) information. We welcome applications from international applicants. If you are not a British or Irish citizen, from 1 January 2021 you will require permission to work in the UK. This will normally be in the form of a visa but, if you are an EEA/Swiss citizen and resident in the UK before 31 December 2020, this may be your passport or status under the EU Settlement Scheme.

## 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.

