



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Fellow in Leeds Social Sciences Institute, Leeds Social Sciences Institute



Salary: Grade 7 (£34,304 – £40,927 p.a.)

Reference: ESLSS1084

Fixed-term until 11 July 2022

We will consider internal candidates on a secondment basis

We will consider flexible working arrangements

Research Fellow in Leeds Social Sciences Institute Leeds Social Sciences Institute (LSSI), Faculty of Social Sciences

Are you an early career researcher looking for a new challenge? Are you interested in furthering connections between the University of Leeds and Leeds City Council? Would you like to develop dataset connections, create the infrastructure for effective partnership collaborations and contribute to more effective local policy making?

The LSSI is a vibrant research Institute that works to support and enhance the social sciences across the University and in collaboration with our external partners. It fosters interdisciplinary and international research collaborations, promotes relations with external partners in the public, private and third sectors and builds capacity through the provision of training and skills development for the next generation of research leaders.

This opportunity is created by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) Impact Acceleration Account Local Acceleration Fund which will accelerate our ongoing work in connecting communities in Leeds working with Leeds City Council (LCC), to undertake a variety of tasks designed to understand and improve the process of collaboration between the University of Leeds (UoL) and local policymakers.

With a successfully completed PhD (this includes work submitted for assessment, but not yet examined) in a relevant field of study, you will have interests in the role of social science research in understanding and addressing societal change and the importance of collaborating with local authorities as a way to support this endeavour. You will have experience of conducting qualitative and quantitative research. Your background may be in a range of social science fields and you must be willing to work across disciplinary boundaries. You will also work with various members of Leeds City Council staff and be involved in producing short reports on the research findings.

You will possess excellent analytical and writing skills and the ability to deal with a variety of tasks to set deadlines. The ability to work alone or as part of a team is essential, as are strong organisational, interpersonal and communication skills.



The Faculty of Social Sciences values an inclusive working and teaching environment and our aim is to develop a diverse staff and student community reflective of this. We select candidates on the basis of merit and ability and aspire to further diversify our School and Faculty community. We particularly welcome 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 LGBTQ+, and disabled people.

What does the role entail?

As a Research Fellow your main duties will include:

- Working with and in support of the LSSI on their research agenda, research projects and publications;
- Overseeing and delivering the 3 elements of this project: i) Data accelerator community engagement (developing smarter ways of working to meet place-based inequality and deprivation challenges through connecting datasets), ii) School meals pilot (creating a digital tool for Leeds' schools to understand carbon footprinting of lunches) and iii) Online collaboration hub (development of a hub to support closer and more continuous working between LCC & UoL). Your work will be particularly in the delivery of element iii) and in the overseeing of elements i) and ii);
- Being an active researcher, conducting research, planning and undertaking fieldwork/conferences and analysing data;
- Drafting project reports and project report contributions;
- Being involved in presenting research findings to academic and professional audiences and communicating data in accessible ways;
- Producing reports for the LSSI Executive Group and Steering Group.

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 Research Fellow, you will have:

- A PhD (or close to completion) in any relevant area of study;
- An interest in supporting the impact of social sciences research;



- Successfully completed training in social research methods, at either undergraduate or post-graduate level;
- Experience of presenting research findings to professional and/or academic audiences;
- Good time management and planning skills, with the ability to meet tight deadlines, manage competing demands and work effectively under pressure without close support;
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills including presentation skills;
- Good general IT skills;
- An ability to work independently and on own initiative;
- An ability to demonstrate judgement in planning and carrying out activities.

You may also have:

- A proven track record of peer-reviewed publications in high impact journals;
- Experience of collaborating with the third sector;
- An ability to develop relationships and seek future funding;
- Experience of leading discussions in different meetings.

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 Louise Waite, Director of the Leeds Social Sciences Institute

Email: l.waite@leeds.ac.uk

Cheryl Harris, Institute Manager LSSI

Email: c.a.harris@leeds.ac.uk



Additional information

About the job

You will be responsible to the Executive Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and report to the Director of LSSI.

Find out more about the [Leeds Social Sciences Institute](#).

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.

