



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

**Research Fellow, Inclusive Art for Wicked Problems,
Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Cultures**



Salary: Grade 7 (£39,105 - £46,485 p.a. depending on experience)

Reporting to: Jade French

Reference: AHCFA1054

Location: University campus and Pyramid (Holbeck, Leeds)

1.0 FTE. Available on a fixed term basis, with a latest end date of 1st September 2028, to complete specific time limited work. We are open to discussing flexible working arrangements.

Research Fellow, Inclusive Art for Wicked Problems' School of Fine Art, History of Art & Cultural Studies

Overview of the Role

Are you an ambitious researcher looking for your next challenge? Do you have an established background in participatory research? Do you want to further your career in one of the UKs leading research intensive Universities?

We are pleased to offer this opportunity for a participatory researcher to join the [School of Fine Art, History of Art and Cultural Studies](#).

The research project, *Inclusive Art for Wicked Problems*, is funded by UKRI via a Future Leader Fellowship and will be delivered in collaboration with inclusive arts organisation [Pyramid](#). It will use an arts-based systemic action research methodology to mobilise the expertise and creativity of learning disabled and neurodiverse artists across societal challenges, like care, support, and education. This includes a methodological work package to generate new ways of working that bridges inclusive arts practice and systemic action research, an international collaboration between the UK team and a researcher and art museum professionals in Brazil, and a locally embedded systemic action research project led by Pyramid artists across the Leeds City Region tackling the urgencies and issues with affect them.

The post-holder will work under the supervision of [Dr Jade French](#). They will be engaged in a variety of activities including developing the methodology by working with artists, reviewing literature and policy, supporting artist's enquiries as part of the systemic action research, organising stakeholder engagement, communications, and reporting in a variety of ways.

While most of the work will be located in Leeds across the university campus and Pyramid's studio (Holbeck, Leeds), the post will involve travel across the Leeds City Region and occasional travel to Brazil. There will be opportunities to develop skills and knowledge including internal and external training.



Main duties and responsibilities

As a Research Fellow your main duties will include:

- Contributing to project set-up, for example gaining ethical approval, in consultation with [Dr Jade French](#) and wider team;
- Organising and attending regular meetings with the project lead, wider team, and broader stakeholders including social care professionals and community groups;
- Taking the lead on sourcing, reviewing and critically analysing relevant literature from a wide range of scholarly and policy/practice-related sources;
- Contributing to developing the methodology in collaboration with the wider team and stakeholders;
- Liaising with a professional film company to enable them to document the project in line with research aims and ethics;
- Working collaboratively with a team in Brazil to contribute to setting up a new inclusive arts studio in São Paulo as a strand of action research;
- Taking the lead on supporting individual artists at Pyramid to lead their own enquiries, e.g. co-developing data collection mechanisms;
- Working collaboratively with the wider team to analyse and integrate the mixed methods data;
- Co-ordinating connections between research findings and relevant decision-makers or professional bodies where impact can be made;
- Supporting the organisation and curation of an exhibition at the university to showcase the research in collaboration with wider team;
- Lead and/or assist in writing up and disseminating study findings through articles, blogs, professional facing reports/guides, social media, and presentations, or sharing of outputs like artworks and film;
- Supporting the development and maintenance of the project website and other web-based sources of information about the project;
- To contribute to, and to encourage, a safe and accessible working environment.

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.



Qualifications and skills

Essential

- A PhD in a relevant disciplinary area;
- Previous experience using participatory research methodologies, such as action research, with communities;
- An ability to facilitate research collaborations at a variety of scales including one-to-one, in groups, and with institutional stakeholders;
- Excellent organisational and time management skills, with an ability to plan logistics that respond effectively to people's access requirements and professional commitments;
- A track record of facilitating community and public engagement with research;
- Track record of conducting literature reviews and peer reviewed publications;
- Outstanding communication skills, both written, verbal, and non-verbal, and the ability to communicate effectively and flexibly in diverse formats (e.g., workshops, articles, presentations, reports, exhibitions, social media, film) to a wide range of people and professions;
- An understanding of, and commitment to, promoting equality, diversity, and inclusivity.

Desirable

- Previous experience of collaborating with disabled, learning disabled, and/or neurodiverse people and their networks;
- Knowledge of disability studies and/or arts-based methods;
- Previous experience of policy engagement and writing

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:

[Dr. Jade French](#), Senior Lecturer in Inclusive Arts Practice & Museum Studies and Futures Leaders Fellow

Email: J.French2@leeds.ac.uk

Please note: If you are not a British or Irish citizen, 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, this may be your status under the EU Settlement Scheme.

Additional information

Working at Leeds

We are a campus-based community and regular interaction with campus is an expectation of all roles in line with academic and service needs and the requirements of the role. We are also open to discussing flexible working arrangements. To find out more about the benefits of working at the University and what it is like to live and work in the Leeds area visit our [Working at Leeds](#) information page.

Our University

As an international research-intensive university, we welcome students and staff from all walks of life and from across the world. We foster an inclusive environment where all can flourish and prosper, and we are proud of our strong commitment to student education. Within the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Cultures we are dedicated to diversifying our community and we welcome the unique contributions that individuals can bring, and particularly encourage applications from, but not limited to Black, Asian, people who belong to a minority ethnic community; people who identify as LGBT+; and disabled people. Candidates will always be selected based on merit and ability. »

Information for disabled candidates

Information for disabled candidates, impairments or health conditions, including requesting alternative formats, can be found on our [Accessibility](#) information page or by getting in touch with us at hr@leeds.ac.uk



Criminal record information

Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order 1975

This post requires a standard criminal record check from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS), and any equivalent overseas authorities where relevant. The successful candidate will be required to give consent for the University to check their criminal record status. All applicants are required to make a self-declaration where applicable.

Any offer of appointment will be subject to the University being satisfied with the outcome of these checks, in accordance with our Criminal Records policy. You can find out more about required checks and declarations in our [Criminal Records](#) information page.

Salary Requirements of the Skilled Worker Visa Route

Please note that this post may be suitable for sponsorship under the Skilled Worker visa route but first-time applicants might need to qualify for salary concessions. For more information please visit: www.gov.uk/skilled-worker-visa.

For research and academic posts, we will consider eligibility under the Global Talent visa. For more information please visit: <https://www.gov.uk/global-talent>.

