



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Fellow, Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Cultures, School of Languages, Cultures and Societies



Salary: Grade 7 (£41,064 – £48,822 p.a.)

Reporting to Vlad Strukov, Project's Principal Investigator

Reference: AHCLC1239

1FTE, 37.5 hours per week

This role will be based on the university campus, with scope for it to be undertaken in a hybrid manner.

Fixed term for 12 Months (1.2.2026 – 31.01.2027) to complete a specific task

We are also open to discussing flexible working arrangements

Research Fellow

Faculty of Arts, Humanities & Cultures – School of Languages, Cultures & Societies

Overview of the Role

This full-time job starts on 1 February 2026 and ends on 31 January 2027.

The Research Fellow will join an international team of researchers working on the AHRC-DFG-funded project titled 'Transitions: Examining changing regimes of sexuality in post-Soviet Muslim Republics'. It brings together an interdisciplinary team of researchers based at the Universities of Leeds and Regensburg, and also research partners from the region that collaboratively examine cultural and political shifts in the counties in the Caucasus and Central Asia where Islam is a dominant religion, taking Azerbaijan and Kyrgyzstan as principal case studies. This job will provide an opportunity for the candidate to work alongside experienced and early career researchers working across the disciplines of Cultural Studies, Gender and Sexuality Studies, Art History, Literary Studies, Media Studies, History, and International Relations. The Research Fellow will facilitate activities such as conferences and field trips whilst developing own research trajectory within the project, resulting in publications and professional development.

Main duties and responsibilities

As a Research Fellow your main duties will include:

- Being involved in collaborative strategic development of the project;
- Assisting other researchers by sharing own knowledge and expertise and benefitting from the expertise of others;



- Conducting research as defined by the Principal Investigator, for example, interviews with cultural producers and analysis of films and media, whilst developing own research portfolio;
- Generating research publications relevant to the project such as journal articles and book chapters;
- Facilitating the day-to-day work of the Principal Investigator by organising field trips, events, corresponding with project partners, and engaging with external organisations and networks;
- Organising an international conference at the University of Regensburg (October 2026) and other events such as a seminar series and other relevant events;
- Contributing to the production of scholarly publications such as artistic portfolios and literary handbooks. Training on the institutional administrative processes will be provided.

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

- PhD in one of the relevant subject areas (Visual Cultures Studies, Art and Curating, Film Studies, Gender Studies, Sexuality Studies, Queer Studies,)
- Research-level fluency in English and Russian, or English and Farsi, or English and Azerbaijani, or English and Kyrgyz
- Ability to conduct advanced research in Arts and Humanities, including analysis of documents, policies, art works, films, archival materials, interviews, and so on; ability to conduct research on visual materials; ability to conduct interviews with cultural producers



- Ability to present research findings—in the form of conference papers, research articles and posts in social media—to relevant communities, including academic and non-academic communities
- Ability to work with national and international external partners such as art institutions, film festivals, and think tanks
- Ability to assist the Principal Investigator and the research team with the effective and collegial organisation of research such as the organisation of field trips, events, interviews, and so on

Desirable

- Knowledge of the region of the South Caucasus and/or Central Asia
- Knowledge of the UK research culture
- Experience of working in research teams

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 Vlad Strukov - Project's Principal Investigator

Professor Vlad Strukov / Email: V.Strukov@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 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/School of Languages, Cultures and Societies, 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 LGBTQI+; 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

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.



