



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Assistant – Examining the multilingual experiences and repertoires of DHH children growing up in migrant contexts of Germany



Salary: Grade 6 (£33,951 – £39,906 p.a. depending on experience)

Reporting to: Professor Ruth Swanwick

Reference: ESLED1149

Location: University Main Campus, Leeds (with a scope for hybrid working)

0.5FTE, 17.5 hours per week

Fixed term (36 months part-time start date 01 February 2026)

‘We are open to discussing flexible working arrangements.’

Research Assistant, School of Education, Faculty of Social Sciences

Overview of the Role

The School of Education, University of Leeds, seeks to recruit a Research Assistant for a AHRC funded research project that examines the multilingual experiences and repertoires of deaf and hard-of-hearing (DHH) children growing up in migrant contexts of Germany and the UK. The project is a collaboration between the Universities of Leeds, Cologne and University College London.

The transnational focus, leveraging Britain's established institutional support for multilingual children and Germany's recent high migration, will result in an analysis and explanation of the contexts of language development for DHH migrant children, the expansion of scientific knowledge on multilingual linguistic repertoires in diverse contexts, the development of informed guidelines for researching, assessing and explaining language use and development in marginalised communities, and the development of practical guidelines for sustainable linguistic support for DHH migrant children across Europe, contributing to informed policy development.

The successful candidate will be working with Professor Ruth Swanwick (PI) in the School of Education, University of Leeds and Dr Kate Rowley (Co-I) at Deafness, Cognition and Language, University College London. They will assist the PI and Co-I in coordinating activities in the UK and liaising with the University of Cologne project team. The role involves contact building with participant families and organisations, data collection, preparation and analysis and will contribute to impact activities and outputs, including sustainable network development and publications. The successful candidate should be part of the Deaf community and/or communicate in BSL

The appointment is available on a fixed term basis for 36 months at 50% fte

Main duties and responsibilities

- To undertake appropriate organisational and administrative activities connected to the research project, including building networks with participants and stakeholders, and supporting transnational communication
- To undertake all aspects of the field work (ethical approval, data collection, processing, and analysis) in close coordination with project partners in London and Cologne
- To establish and maintain contacts with families, schools, and educational networks in multilingual communities



- To develop and test context-sensitive methods for capturing multilingual repertoires
- To support the organization of workshops, conferences, and dissemination activities
- To contribute to academic publications and presentations
- To contribute to the development of practice-oriented guidelines for inclusive language and educational work with DHH children

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 following fields: deaf education/studies, linguistics, applied linguistics, language education, multilingualism
- A minimum BSL qualification of level 2
- Experience of ethnographic and qualitative approaches to multilingualism research
- Demonstrable knowledge or experience of collecting and analysing data in visual, interview and video format
- Excellent command of written English
- An understanding of working within data protection and ethical guidelines
- Ability to plan, priorities and organise own work and the work of others

Desirable

- Experience of the use of spoken and/or signed productive vocabulary assessment tools.
- Demonstrable knowledge or experience of using of NVIVO and ELAN
- Ability to write up research work for publication in high profile journals and engage in public dissemination
- Knowledge of an additional language relevant to the project (e.g., Polish, Arabic, Urdu) is an advantage



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 either post further or for any queries you may have, please contact:

Professor Ruth Swanwick

Email: r.a.swanwick@education.leeds.ac.uk

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. 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 Social Sciences, 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, those 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 under the 'Accessibility' heading on our [How to Apply](#) information page or by getting in touch by [emailing HR via hr@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:hr@leeds.ac.uk).



Criminal record information

Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order 1975

This post requires an enhanced 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 in accordance with our Criminal Records policy. You can find out more about required checks and declarations in our [Criminal Records](#) information page.

