

Job Title: Research Assistant (TASO Research Project)
Grade: 6
Salary: £28,331 to £30,046 per annum due to funding restriction
Department: Media, Communications and Sociology
Hours/Contract: Full-time and fixed-term until 30 September 2021
Reference: 2215

Role Purpose

The post holder will be involved in a project focused on widening our understanding of why there appears to be an outcome difference for specific undergraduate assessment types in relation to the ethnic background of the student, and on understanding the reasons which underpin this trend. Building on the 'Decolonising the Curriculum Toolkit' Pilot conducted by Dr Paul Campbell, this project evaluates the impact of the toolkit on BAME inclusion, in various undergraduate modules. By working with selected schools, the project aims to:

1. improve BAME student satisfaction about the course and module level;
2. reduce the differences in assessment and award outcomes comparing BAME and white students;
3. foster a stronger sense of relevance concerning module content and the lived realities and histories of our BAME sociology students.

Main Duties and Responsibilities	% Time
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with selected schools at the University of Leicester (through remote and/or face-to-face interviews and/or focus groups) to identify successful and inclusive practice and pedagogy, which underpins BAME inclusion and 'higher-grade' BAME student performance. 	30
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist in the development of an implementation/process evaluation and a smaller impact evaluation. 	10
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct desk-based research including literature and database searches, rapid evidence assessments, and some quantitative analysis. 	10
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify new and innovative approaches to evaluation, which could be used in this project. 	10
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist in the analysis, organisation and presentation of data. 	10
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present information on research progress and outcomes to relevant stakeholders. 	10
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to the production of research reports and presentations as appropriate. 	10
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop meaningful and effective practice, pedagogy and policy recommendations, including providing evidence towards development of relevant guidance and toolkits. 	10



Internal and External Relationships

The post holder will work under the supervision of a member of teaching and research staff at the University of Leicester. To realise the scope of the project, the post holder will also work with academic and professional services staff and students, as appropriate and requested. To assist with the research tasks, there may also be an occasional contact with external stakeholders including other researchers and teaching staff.

Internal

- Project’s academic lead, Dr Paul Campbell (Media, Sociology and Communication)
- Academic Schools (staff and students)
- Education Strategy Unit (Student & Academic Services)
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Team
- Learning & Teaching Committees
- Race Equality Action Group
- Students’ Union (in particular the Education Officer)

External

- TASO (Transforming Access and Student Outcomes in HE)

Planning and Organising

The post holder will be responsible for managing their own workload whilst working to defined priorities and deadlines for delivery.

Qualifications, Knowledge and Experience

Essential

- A good honours degree*
- A masters qualification in a relevant discipline*
- Evidence of research experience*
- Significant experience of collating, analysis and presenting qualitative data*
- Experience of effectively multi-tasking and prioritising work*
- Experience of appropriately managing confidential and sensitive information.*
- A familiarity with current race, ethnicity and inclusion literature, practice and/or policy. *

Desirable

- A PhD in sociology, education or a closely related subject area (either completed or near completion)
- Knowledge of developments in Higher Education inclusivity policy in the areas of teaching and learning, assessment and student experience
- Experience in developing academic policy
- Experience of working in higher education





Skills, Abilities and Competencies

Essential

- Detailed working knowledge of the full MS Office suite, particularly Outlook and Word*
- Excellent research and analytical skills*
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills; with an ability to converse and network with a wide range of stakeholders*
- Highly driven with an ability to meet goals and deliver results, working both independently and in a team*
- Able to work in a creative and innovative ways to respond to the changing external and internal environment and priorities*
- Competent use of the internet and social media*

Desirable

- Willingness to work flexibly, as and when required
- Ability to problem-solve and suggest solutions

****Criteria to be used in shortlisting candidates for interview***

Reason for Fixed Term Contract

The reason for the fixed term contract is stated in section 1.9 in the summary of contractual terms in your contract of employment.

Criminal Declaration

If you become an employee, you must inform your manager immediately, in writing, if you are the subject of any current or future police investigations/legal proceedings, which could result in a criminal offence, conviction, caution, bind-over or charges, or warnings.

VITAL

The University encourages all staff to live our [VITAL values](#) which are:

Valuing People, Innovators, Together, Accountable, Leaders.

Equality and Diversity

We believe that equality, diversity and inclusion is integral to a successful modern workplace. By developing and implementing policies and systems that challenge stereotypes across all aspects of our work, we have a culture that recognises and values the diverse contributions of our staff which benefits everyone. Our strong values of inclusivity and equality support our efforts to attract a diverse range of high quality staff and students, and identify our University as a progressive and innovative workplace that mainstreams equality, diversity and inclusion.

