Professrial appointment in Digital Technologies: Reading and Children’s Development in WELS (0.4 FTE) – 4 years
School of Education, Childhood, Youth and Sport, Faculty of WELS

Key responsibilities:

As a senior colleague, you will play a significant role in enhancing and developing the strong research culture within the School, Faculty, and OU more broadly. You will continue to advance your own research while providing intellectual leadership. You will join a thriving community of colleagues who engage in research that contributes to transforming society from cradle to grave, looking to REF2021/28 and the research environment beyond.

Through your own achievements and your supportive leadership, you will contribute to the School’s increased success in obtaining external funding, produce high quality research outputs, ensure the impact of the School’s research and undertake external engagement activities. You will contribute to the recruitment and support of research students. You will take a key role in mentoring new and career-early staff and helping more established colleagues develop their careers.

You will have an active and compelling research agenda that engages with contemporary developments in the area of Digital Technologies: Reading and Children’s Development and extends existing research strengths within the School as well as beyond. You will have an established international research reputation and an impressive record of publications with a commitment to the dissemination of research to stakeholders and beneficiaries beyond academia. You will have a significant record of success in securing external funding income. Your excellent leadership record will include demonstrable achievements in assisting the development of more junior colleagues.

This professorial appointment is expected to contribute positively to research, teaching and academic management in the following ways:

Research
- Contribute significantly to the research profile and 2021/28 Research Excellence Framework submissions of the School of Education, Childhood, Youth and Sport through a strong record of high-quality publications, alongside the effective dissemination and application of research by other routes;
- Actively engage in grant bidding and other income generating activities in line with the School and Faculty research strategies, alongside activity to support and encourage others to bid more effectively;
- Play a leadership and mentoring role in the development and delivery of a sustainable research strategy for the School and Faculty;
- Work effectively and collaboratively to develop a shared research culture by fostering existing research strengths and growing new excellence, including through research mentoring of academics in the School, especially new and career-early staff;
- Supervise research students.

Teaching
- To contribute to teaching in the School of Education, Childhood, Youth and Sport from undergraduate to EdD level as agreed in consultation with the Head of School.
Academic Leadership

- Provide core intellectual leadership within the School and Faculty;
- Represent the School and University externally in ways that enhance the standing and reputation of the University nationally and internationally;
- Consistently contribute in positive ways to the development of a collegial and engaged academic community in the School, Faculty and University.

Person Specification

Skills and experience

Candidates interested in applying for the role of Professor of Digital Technologies: Reading and Children’s Development should be able to demonstrate the essential skills and experience listed below.

Essential

- An established and successful programme of high-quality research in a field that complements and extends the current research activities of the School of Education, Childhood, Youth and Sport;
- An internationally excellent research profile, including high quality outputs suitable for a REF submission to the C23 (Education) unit of assessment;
- Evidence of research achievements that have considerable reach, external significance and outstanding impact;
- Significant success in obtaining external research income (including acting as Principal Investigator on significant grants won in peer review);
- An excellent record of successful supervision of research students;
- A record of intellectual leadership in collaborative settings;
- An excellent record of assisting staff development and mentoring new and career-early staff;
- A record of leadership at an organisational and/or strategic level with demonstrable results, including enabling others to succeed with achieving objectives;
- Ability to start at the Open University before end of July 2020, including Right to Work approval.
- Commitment to The Open University’s mission and values, including widening participation in HE and equality and diversity issues;

Desirable

- Ability to combine a range of research approaches;
- A record of active membership of appropriate external bodies and networks e.g. with professional practitioners, policy makers, leading researchers at other institutions.
- Established Professorial experience at another higher education institution.