Job Related Information

This document includes information about the role for which you are applying and the information you will need to provide with your application.

1. Role Details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vacancy reference</th>
<th>14344</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Job title:</td>
<td>Research Fellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reports to:</td>
<td>Peter Twining</td>
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<tr>
<td>Salary:</td>
<td>£39,992 to £41,212 (pro rata), depending on qualifications and experience</td>
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<tr>
<td>Terms and conditions:</td>
<td>Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grade</td>
<td>AC3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration of post:</td>
<td>Fixed Term Contract from 1 April 2018 to 31 July 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working hours:</td>
<td>0.6FTE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location:</td>
<td>Walton Hall, Milton Keynes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Closing date:</td>
<td>5:00pm on 8 February 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Type of application form accepted:</td>
<td>Covering Letter, Application Form and CV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of referees required:</td>
<td>Three</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit recruitment contact:</td>
<td>Helen Jackman</td>
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</table>
2. Summary of duties

Overall job purpose

PoLEY is a pilot project to explore the use of Point of Learning (PoL) in Early Years settings. PoL is a professional learning tool developed by Imagine Education, with academic support from staff at the Open University – see https://www.imagine.education/developing-point-of-learning/ for further info.

This post holder will play a critical role working with staff (and other stakeholders) in one or more Early Years settings in England to develop the PoL framework for use in each setting, support and evaluate its roll out and impact, and report the findings.

Main duties

1. Take a lead role in the day-to-day management of the project, including maintaining project schedules, management of data, and organisation of meetings.

2. Take a lead role in working with at least one Early Years settings to develop a version of the PoL Framework for use in each of them.

3. Take the lead role in working with at least one Early Years settings to implement the use of the PoL Framework (developed in 2) in each setting.

4. Take the lead role in collecting data about the use and impact of the PoL system in at least one Early Years settings.

5. Take the lead role in analysing data, within a sociocultural framework, about the use and impact of the PoL system in at least one Early Years settings.

6. Make a key contribution to the writing of reports on the development, implementation, use and impact of the PoL system in the Early Years setting(s).

7. Support colleagues within the OU Early Years team in contributing to this research.

8. Actively engage in dissemination activities, seminars, blog posts, and other written outputs.

3. Person specification

Requirements  (E = Essential/ D = Desirable)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education, qualifications and training</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Essential:</td>
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<tr>
<td>1. PhD or equivalent</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Knowledge, work and other relevant experience</th>
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<tr>
<td>Essential:</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Qualitative research expertise in Early Years settings, underpinned by a relativist epistemological stance.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Excellent qualitative data analysis skills.</td>
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</table>
4. Proven ability to successfully write academic peer-reviewed outputs for publication.

5. Proven ability to communicate clearly with research and/or professional audiences.

6. Proven ability to work effectively both independently and in a team and to network with other researchers and/or practitioners.

7. Proven ability to manage collaborative projects, involving multiple team members.

8. Excellent organisational skills, the ability to take the initiative and complete tasks to deadlines and to a high standard without the need for close supervision, and experience of effectively coping with and prioritising multiple tasks.

9. Excellent ICT competence (e.g. the ability to rapidly master the Lengo system that underpins PoL)

10. Availability to take up the post on or very near to the 1st April 2018

Desirable:

11. Established links with Early Years settings

Personal abilities and qualities

Essential:

12. Understanding of sociocultural theory

13. Ability to travel to the Early Years setting(s)

Desirable:

4. **Role specific requirements e.g. Shift working**

The role may include to travel within the UK, including overnight stays.

The role is based in Milton Keynes, and the post holder will be expected to be able to be in Milton Keynes to attend meetings (one day per week on average).

5. **About the unit/department**

**Faculty of Wellbeing, Education and Language Studies**

The Open University has embarked on a period of transformational change. A new Strategic Plan will further strengthen our offerings for students, providing an outstanding and professionally-focused learning experience. In August 2016, the University restructured into four new Faculties, each comprising of a number of Schools.

The new Faculty is based in Milton Keynes and in regional and national offices with our Student Support Team will be located in Nottingham. The majority of our 35,500 students are in the UK, but the Faculty also has students in the Republic of Ireland, Continental Western Europe and elsewhere in the world. The Faculty’s curriculum comprises programmes at undergraduate, Masters and doctoral levels.
### The School of Education, Childhood, Youth and Sport

The school currently has 7 qualification areas covering childhood and youth, youth work, sport and fitness, primary and early years – offered in the UK and beyond. Programmes range from Access modules (pre undergraduate Level 1) to Postgraduate Research. The school is composed of just over 500 Associate lecturers, nearly 14,000 students and 118 members of staff. In addition we have a long history of running international projects in, for example, Africa, India, Bangladesh and Indonesia.

Our undergraduate degrees are currently:

- BA (Hons) *Childhood and Youth Studies*
- BA (Hons) *Early Childhood*
- BA (Hons) *Education Studies (Primary)*
- BSc (Hons) *Sport, Fitness and Coaching and*
- BA (Hons) *Youth Work.*

Our postgraduate degrees are currently:

- Masters degree in *Education*
- MA in *Childhood and Youth*

In addition we also contribute to the main OU Psychology Programme at all levels in the areas of child development and sport and exercise psychology. Currently the level 1 undergraduate module *Introduction to Childhood Studies and Child Psychology* (E102) (3,500 students a year) is a key component of our teaching profile along with *Psychology of Childhood and Youth* (E219) (2,000 students a year).

Members of the School are part of the Education Futures Research Cluster which has a strong record in research income generation.

Members of the School are academic advisors on a number of Television and Radio productions including the BBC programmes Child of Our Time, Bringing up Britain and have been responsible for the related information available on Open Learn [http://www.open.edu/openlearn/body-mind/childhood-youth](http://www.open.edu/openlearn/body-mind/childhood-youth).

**PoLEY**

PoLEY (PoL in Early Years) is a small-scale research project involving Prof Peter Twining and colleagues from the Early Years team in the Open University.

The project was initiated in 2017 and preliminary work has been undertaken to explore the PoL system and ways in which it might be used in Early Years settings.

This research focuses on developing and trialling the use of the PoL system in Early Years, with a view to applying for a major grant to extend the project if the outcomes of this pilot study are positive.

The project needs to be completed by the end of July 2018.

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### 6. How to obtain more information about the role or application process

If you would like to discuss the particulars of this role before making an application please contact Peter Twining on 01908 655078 or email: peter.twining@open.ac.uk.

If you have any questions regarding the application process please contact Helen Jackman on 01908 332247 or email: wels-recruitment@open.ac.uk. Please see ‘How to apply for general vacancies’ for guidelines on how to submit your application.
7. The application process and where to send completed applications

Please ensure that your application reaches the University by: 5:00pm on 8 February 2018

Post it to: The Open University

Name/Job title: Helen Jackman

Department/Unit: WELS Staffing Team

Address: Room 116 – 118
Horlock Building
Walton Hall
Milton Keynes

Post Code: MK7 6AA

Or e-mail your application to: Wels-recruitment@open.ac.uk

8. Selection process and date of interview

The interview panel will be chaired by: Professor Peter Twining

The other members of the interview panel will be: To be confirmed

The interviews will take place on: To be advised

The selection process for this post will include A formal interview and a pre-interview task which will be advised after shortlisting.

We will let you know as soon as possible after the closing date whether you have been shortlisted for interview. Further details on the selection process will also be sent to shortlisted candidates. Applications received after the closing date will not be accepted.