Job Description – Research Associate (Post Doctoral - Language and Literacy for Social Justice), Faculty of Wellbeing, Education and Language Studies (WELS) 16998

1 FTE – 37 hours per week
Fixed term: 24 month fixed term contract
AC2 - £33,797 - £40,322
Walton Hall, Milton Keynes-based with the possibility of working remotely on occasion

About the Role

To undertake research, teaching and related development work in partnership with others in order to advance both the Research Associate’s own research agenda and in support of their colleagues. The post-holder will work closely with the Academic Lead for the Language and Literacy for Social Justice Centre in the Faculty of Wellbeing, Education and Language Studies (WELS), in conducting literature reviews, qualitative secondary analysis, the collecting of new data, running of training workshops and public engagement events, and drafting of research outputs. They will also contribute to teaching as appropriate, such as within the postgraduate research programmes (EdD and PhD) and the design of research-informed courses and resources.

The Open University is an Institution that strives to create an academic climate in which diversity is embraced by maintaining and respecting the dignity, respect and civility of individuals from all backgrounds, identities, cultures and experiences. The programmes in the Faculty of Wellbeing, Education, and Language Studies play an integral role in achieving the University’s widening participation and social justice mission. We strive to recruit, retain and develop the careers of a diverse pool of students and staff, and particularly encourage applications from all underrepresented groups.

Key Responsibilities

Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Develop further a substantive area of research, exploring links with colleagues’ interests

- Coordinate, support and develop funding bids, both as principal investigator (PI) and as a team member working with others

- Support and help shape the formation of a new interdisciplinary language and literacy for social justice centre

- Contribute to enhancing research capacity and the research environment at the OU

- Contribute to teaching as appropriate, such as within the postgraduate research programmes (EdD and PhD) and the design of research-informed course and resources
• Contribute to and produce quality academic and non-academic outputs
• Contribute to public engagement and impact work
• A strong commitment to excellence in working with a diverse student population

**Essential Skills and Experience**

• A relevant doctorate degree, preferably a PhD or EdD.

• Expertise in research in the area of education, teaching and learning in the early and primary years.

• Proven ability to work effectively both independently and in a team.

• 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 coping with and prioritising effectively multiple tasks across more than one project or team.

• Proven ability to work with teachers, schools and other education stakeholders in order to undertake research studies and sustain their involvement.

• Good ICT skills.

• High level of interpersonal skills and the capacity to communicate with ease.

• Excellent qualitative and/or quantitative data analysis skills.

• Proven ability to undertake independent research.

• Proven ability to work with arts and cultural organisations and other external organisations.

• Ability to write for publication in peer-reviewed journals and for academic audiences.

• Ability to communicate clearly to non-academic audiences.

**Desirable Skills and Experience**

• Familiarity with the research work being undertaken by members of the Faculty and in the School of Education, Childhood, Youth and Sport.

• Experience in researching aspects of literacy and language.

• Ability and willingness to travel for work purposes including potentially overnight stays.

• Expertise with Social media.