



## 1. Advertisement:

**Post Title:** Research Fellow

**School/Dept:** School of Education and Social Work /Department of Education

**Hours:** part time hours considered up to a maximum of 0.25 FTE. Requests for flexible working options will be considered (subject to business need).

**Contract:** Fixed term for 4 months (1.10.22 until 31.01.23)

**Reference:** 9436

**Salary:** starting at £35,333 to £42,155 per annum, pro rata if part time

**Placed on:** 05 August 2022

**Closing Date:** 23 August 2022. Applications must be received by midnight of the closing date.

**Expected Interview date:** 05 September 2022

**Expected start date:** 01 October 2022

The Department of Education, within the School of Education and Social Work, has been awarded a grant by [eNurture](#) for a short project exploring the digital worlds of unaccompanied refugee children and young people (URCYP), and investigating how their digital worlds link to their wellbeing. The research project is based on principles of co-production and is guided by three objectives:

1. Explore how URCYP experience and engage with the digital world to support their social integration and sense of belonging in the UK, and how this interplays with their transnational lives and connections.
2. Identify what URCYP perceive to be the risks to their safety and well-being from digital engagement and how they navigate these risks.
3. Co-design and co-produce a pilot project with URCYP which will embed new knowledge aimed at promoting positive mental health among UCRYP.

To support this work we are looking to appoint a part-time Research Fellow to work with [Dr Linda Morrice](#) and [Dr Linda Tip](#) (University of Brighton) and a small team of peer researchers with lived experience of arriving in the UK as unaccompanied children. The Research Fellow will be responsible for training and supporting the peer researchers, co-designing an appropriate qualitative methodology and co-facilitating group activities. Depending on the interests of the URCYP we hope to engage in simple arts-based methods through which participants can build on perspectives whilst minimizing language barriers. The project will be guided by a small advisory group and the knowledge generated will be used to (i) inform the development of a short animation to support positive engagement of URCYP with digital resources; (ii) establish appropriate methodologies which could be used to apply for further research funding.

## 2. The School / Division

Please find further information regarding the school/division at <https://www.sussex.ac.uk/esw/>

### CORE JOB DESCRIPTION

<b>Job Title:</b>	Research Fellow in Education
<b>Grade:</b>	Research Fellow I, Grade 7
<b>School:</b>	Education and Social Work
<b>Location:</b>	Essex House
<b>Responsible to:</b>	Dr Linda Morrice, Principal Investigator
<b>Direct reports:</b>	
<b>Key contacts:</b>	As above.

**Role description:** Research Fellow I is an early career-grade research position. Post-holders will be expected to contribute to the work of the research team, and also to develop their research skills with support from more experienced members of staff.

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### PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTABILITIES

1. To engage in collaborative research activity, including taking a lead role in supporting researchers with lived experience, to co-design and co-produce research.



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2. To co-facilitate arts-based focus groups and interviews with young unaccompanied refugee children and young people (URCYP), support data analysis and dissemination of findings.

## **KEY RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **1.1 Role Specific duties**

- 1.2 To support the training of young people with lived experience in qualitative methods (arts-based focus groups and interviews) and oversee the data collection process.
- 1.3 To work with the research team to co-design the research and to pilot an output which supports the positive engagement of URCYP with digital resources.
- 1.4 To ensure adherence to the highest ethical standards for the work, including confidentiality and informed consent.
- 1.5 To organise research data, manage transcription service and implement systems for secure data management for the project.
- 1.6 Analyse and interpret research findings in collaboration with the research team and draw conclusions on the outcomes.
- 1.7 To work with representatives from key stakeholder groups (e.g. Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children teams, Ethnic Minority Achievement Services, foster carers and NGOs working with URCYP) to establish an advisory group to oversee the project.
- 1.8 To participate as a full member of the research team
- 1.9 To provide general research support to the project as directed.
- 1.10 Through consultation with the research team, URCYP and our advisory group take a central role in establishing a strategy to disseminate our findings to URCYP and other stakeholders.

## **1. Contribution to School & University**

- 1.1 Attend and contribute to relevant project meetings.

This Job Description sets out current duties of the post that may vary from time to time without changing the general character of the post or level of responsibility entailed.

## **INDICATIVE PERFORMANCE CRITERIA**

- A PhD or equivalent scholarly or relevant professional activity, preferred



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- Other forms of externally recognised professional practice or creative output of a standing equivalent to regular publication of original research.
- Initiating, developing or participating in links between the University and external bodies such as professionals working with young people and non-governmental organisations
- Evidence of successful engagement with young people.

## **PERSON SPECIFICATION**

The following qualifications, knowledge, experience, skills and competencies are required:

### **ESSENTIAL CRITERIA**

1. Postgraduate qualification or equivalent scholarly or relevant professional activity.
2. Evidence of community engagement, preferably relating to individuals seeking sanctuary.
3. Experience in qualitative methodologies.
4. Excellent communication skills, with the ability to engage and communicate effectively with young people, social care and education professionals, carers and academic colleagues.
5. Ability to work individually on own initiative and without close supervision, and as part of a team.
6. Ability to exercise a degree of innovation and creative problem-solving.
7. Excellent organisational and administrative skills.
8. Ability to prioritise and meet deadlines.
9. Excellent IT skills.

### **ESSENTIAL ROLE-SPECIFIC CRITERIA**

1. Understanding of safeguarding risks and harms in young unaccompanied children and young people.
2. Commitment to social justice and the well-being of people who are seeking sanctuary in the UK.
3. Commitment to research approaches which valorise the knowledges and perspectives of marginalised groups.

**DESIRABLE CRITERIA**

1. Experience of participatory research with young people
2. Lived experience of displacement
3. Emerging track record of high-quality publications in reputable journals and other appropriate media of similar standing.
4. Experience of contributing to successful research funding applications.

**SPECIAL ATTRIBUTES**

- a) Appointment depends on enhanced Disclosures and Barring Service (DBS) clearance
- b) Fieldwork will take place in Kent and Sussex. Some travel will be expected to attend focus groups.