Research Fellow (Equity in Education)





Role Description

GRADE

Grade 5

LOCATION

Sighthill Campus, with some attendance at partner institutions

LINE MANAGER

Head of Equality & Inclusion for School of Applied Sciences

Role Summary

This is a 0.8 FTE Research Fellow post to be held for 16-months, in support of a project that intends to deliver 'big change' in Scotland's tertiary education sector by transforming policy and practice through the lenses of trauma and poverty.

The project is funded by the Robertson Trust with Edinburgh Napier University as the lead partner, along with City of Glasgow College and Queen Margaret University.

This role is an opportunity to play a key role in shaping the project which seeks to change cultures and shape a sustainable education system that is trauma-informed and prioritises student wellbeing.

Line Management Responsibility for:

This role does not have any line management responsibilities currently

Main Duties and Responsibilities

- Work in partnership with students who have experienced poverty and trauma to co-create methodology that identifies critical institutional policies and practices that impose barriers on their progress.
- Evaluate the impact of those policies and practices across the student journey, building an evidence base to inform policy changes that centre trauma-informed approaches and student wellbeing.
- Use evidence to build a sector-wide toolkit that we anticipate will include methodology and data elements, and an evaluative model to accelerate, elicit and measure the effectiveness of policy/practices that lead to institutional culture change to improve equity and access.
- Engage with colleagues across the tertiary education sector throughout the project to enable timely sharing of our learning and insights to accelerate culture change.
- Work with the project team and student partners to design, deliver and analyse data from research, in line with the project objectives;
- Lead on the development, coordination and delivery of research to gather evidence for the project;
- Identify and work with relevant datasets to gather range of student perspectives, enhancing understanding of student needs, expectations and experiences related to the project;
- Prepare communications materials to share project updates, research methods, and other content with partners, the funders and other interested parties;
- Continually update knowledge and understanding in the research area;
- Build strong working relationships with a range of partners (advisory board, staff, students and external partners);
- Carry out administrative duties involved with the project;
- Maintaining accurate records of data collection and recording these appropriately;
- Be responsible for ensuring that the information and records processed (received, created, used, stored, destroyed) on behalf of the University are managed in compliance with ALL applicable legislation, codes and policies e.g. Data Protection, Information Security and Records Management.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

	ESSENTIAL	DESIRABLE
Education / Qualifications		
• PhD in a relevant discipline	✔	
• Undergraduate degree in a relevant discipline or significant equivalent experience.	✔	
Skills / Experience		
• Demonstrable experience of carrying out research using evidence-informed approaches.	✔	
• Experience designing and facilitating interactive workshops and planning processes	✔	
• Expertise in one or more relevant research methodologies, such as surveys, corporate research, oral histories, participatory action research, or mixed methods.	✔	
• Experience of working with different internal and external partners.	✔	
• Demonstrable interest in equity, social justice and/or trauma-informed practice.	✔	
• Outstanding oral and written communications skills with evidence of ability to relay complex ideas to a diverse range of partners.	✔	
• Ability to think flexibly, creatively, innovatively and analytically.	✔	
• Ability to use a wide range of business software packages.	✔	
• Time-management skills and ability to deliver to deadline and within allocated resource.	✔	
• Experience of working in higher education contexts and demonstrable understanding of the current challenges facing the sector.		✔