

UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM RECRUITMENT ROLE PROFILE FORM

Job Title:	Senior Research Fellow
School/Department:	School of Education
Salary:	£37,768 - £41,255 per annum, depending on skills and experience
Job Family and Level:	Research and Teaching Level 5
Contract Status:	Fixed-term from 1 October 2016 until 30 September 2019
Hours of Work:	Full-time (36.25 hours per week)
Location:	Jubilee Campus
Reporting to:	Professor John Holford

Background:

A research fellow is required to take a leading role in a European research project on lifelong learning. The project, entitled 'Encouraging Lifelong Learning for an Inclusive and Vibrant Europe' (ENLIVEN), is funded the European Union's Horizon 2020 research programme. It will run for 36 months, commencing 1st October 2016.

The project consortium involves ten universities and research institutes in Austria, Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Estonia, Italy, Slovakia, Spain, and the UK (England and Scotland). The entire project is co-ordinated from the University of Nottingham by Professor John Holford (Robert Peers Chair in Adult Education).

The Research Fellow will be a key member of the central project team. He or she will organise and undertake a range of empirical studies, but also work with the transnational team to develop perspectives and research instruments, and to draw together findings, from the different elements of the research. This will involve drafting papers and reports, and publishing research outputs. The Research Fellow will also liaise with policy actors, both to strengthen the quality of the research and to ensure its impact on policy communities in the UK, Europe and international organisations. This is an exciting opportunity to play a key role at the forefront of debates in the UK, Europe, and more widely.

The Project:

The ENLIVEN project focuses on the lifelong learning in Europe, with particular foci on the role of the European Union and its policies, on social inclusion, on young adults, and on the strengths and limitations of existing sources of data for policy purposes.

Lifelong learning for adults has been a central EU policy priority since 1993, and remains a key element of the EU's "Europe 2020" strategy. Nevertheless, provision and uptake across Europe remains profoundly inadequate. ENLIVEN will explores why, and will develop strategies and policy tools to address the problems. The project involves a critical analysis of the achievements and failures of Europe's experiments in (adult) lifelong learning, and modelling how policy interventions in adult education markets can become more effective. A key feature is to examine the interface between policies, "educational markets" and citizens – particularly younger citizens.

ENLIVEN will analyse existing datasets and review the results of existing research, as well as undertaking empirical research. It aims to enable policy-makers at EU, national and organizational levels to enhance provision and take-up of learning opportunities for adults. A significant feature will be the development of an 'intelligent decision support system'; this element will be led by a group in the University of Nottingham's School of Computer Sciences.

The ENLIVEN research is organised across 11 workpackages in 4 clusters:

- WPs 1-3 examine programmes, governance and policies in EU adult learning, looking at the multidimensional nature of social exclusion and disadvantage.
- WP4 examines system characteristics to explain country/region-level variation in lifelong learning participation rates, with particular reference to disadvantaged and at-risk groups, and to young people.
- WPs 5-7 examine the operation and effectiveness of young adults' learning at and for work, undertaking cross-country comparative institutional analysis.
- WPs 8-9 develop the knowledge base for, and develop and trials, an Intelligent Data Support System (IDSS) for evidence-based policy-making and debate.

In addition, there are workpackages addressing dissemination and impact, and project management and integration.

The Research Team:

The ENLIVEN team includes scholars with a wide range of methodological skills in lifelong learning research and related areas, as well as advanced computer science skills. The various tasks will be undertaken by research teams across the participating countries. The team based at Nottingham includes two elements: social scientists (in the School of Education) and Computer Scientists (in the School of Computer Sciences).

As a key member of the project research team in the School of Education, the appointee will work with Professor John Holford to undertake, and to lead other members of the research team in the following areas.

Main Responsibilities	
1.	Planning and co-ordination of the international research programme.
2.	Integration of the various elements of the research to demonstrate its significance, both to scholarship and to policy.
3.	Analysis of lifelong learning policies, particularly in the European Union, and of the interactions between different levels of policy formation and execution (e.g., regional, national, European), and between different areas of social policy.
4.	Analysis and meta-analysis of research data.
5.	Contributing to the design of research strategy and research instruments.
6.	Drafting of reports, research papers, chapters, etc.
7.	Contributing to the editorial process for a book or books.
8.	Any other duties appropriate to the the role and level.

Occasional travel, including some overnight stays, both in the UK and overseas, will be part of the role.

Knowledge, Skills, Qualifications & Experience

	Essential	Desirable
Qualifications/ Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PhD or equivalent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PhD in a relevant social science
Skills/Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to investigate and devise research methods and approaches, design research strategies, instruments, documents, etc. • Ability, in co-operation with other team members, to design research strategy and instruments • Ability to manage the application of a range of methodologies, approaches and techniques appropriate to the type of research being pursued • Expertise in and experience of analysing qualitative and quantitative data, including ability to acquire, analyse and interpret research findings and data using approaches, techniques, models and methods selected or developed for the purpose • Good understanding of approaches to policy analysis, especially in social policy, education and lifelong learning • Ability to read and analyse research reports, papers, policy documents, etc. with speed and accuracy • Ability to draft, edit and revise high-quality prose for academic and policy audiences, and to disseminate and explain research findings through leading peer-reviewed publications (on a sustained basis) • Ability to conduct individual or collaborative research projects • Ability to present to professional, policy and academic audiences • Ability to sustain and pursue a personal research plan (individually or as part of a team) and present the research findings in publications and conference proceedings • Ability to establish a national reputation and regularly publish research work within refereed journals or through reputable publishers • Ability to generate new intellectual understanding and/or knowledge through the application of knowledge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speak and/or read one or more European language(s) in addition to English • Good skills in the design and production of newsletters, briefing notes and web-pages

Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of research project design • Experience in empirical social research • Familiarity with policies and practices in education and lifelong learning • Familiarity with contemporary issues, literature and debates relating to social inclusion, citizenship, education and/or lifelong learning • Experience of co-ordinating research activities as part of a funded research project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge and understanding of social and educational policies in Europe, including the European Union • Familiarity with issues, literature and debates relating to social inclusion, citizenship, education and lifelong learning in relation to the EU • Management or co-ordination of research team members and/or research activities
Personal Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Able to work effectively with diverse and multi-national research teams • Able to work independently and give leadership in research within a team context • Ability to plan, develop and conduct individual or collaborative research objectives, projects and proposals either as a self-contained item or as part of a broader programme 	

For further information about the School of Education please visit our website at www.nottingham.ac.uk/education