



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Fellow in Rights and Accountability in the Indian System of Education (RAISE), Faculty of Education, Social Sciences and Law



Salary: Grade 7 (£32,548– £38,833 p.a.)

The salary spine point is subject to external funding conditions, which will limit the salary at which an appointment can be made to a maximum of £34,520 p.a.

Reference: ESLPO1030

Closing date: 8 June 2018

Fixed-term until 30 September 2020

We will consider flexible working arrangements

Research Fellow in Rights and Accountability in the Indian System of Education (RAISE)

School of Politics and International Studies, Faculty of Education, Social Sciences and Law

Are you an ambitious researcher looking for your next challenge? Do you have a research interest in Education and International Development? Do you want to further your career in one of the UK's leading research-intensive Universities?

You will work with Professor Caroline Dyer, in the School of Politics and International Studies and within the Centre for Global Development, on an international research project 'Rights and Accountability in the Indian System of Education (RAISE)' funded by DFID-ESRC under the Improving Learning Outcomes programme.

You will make key contributions to the qualitative components of the project, bringing to the team your expertise in elementary education. You will be responsible for supporting holistically the research needs of the project, including critical literature reviewing, analysis of secondary and primary data, preparation of presentations, drafting of blogs, policy briefs and academic papers. You will also engage with the project management to ensure the timely production of outputs, keeping track of delivery towards these outputs, and contributing to quarterly and annual reporting. You are expected to work collaboratively with the international research partners, liaise with team members responsible for quantitative and qualitative analyses and lead on specific research outputs under the direction of Professor Dyer. Some travel to India for research purposes, to support the design and piloting of research instruments, site visits, and country engagement meetings with research partners and key policy stakeholders, may be required.

You will have a completed doctorate in Sociology, Anthropology, Education, International Development, or a related discipline and knowledge of debates and literature in elementary education. You will also have experience in qualitative data analysis, with a strong understanding of ethnographic methodologies and an ability to work with mixed research methods. The ability to work alone or as part of a team is essential, along with strong organisational skills and the ability to deal with a variety of tasks delivered to set deadlines.



What does the role entail?

As a Research Fellow your main duties will include:

- Working with and in support of Professor Caroline Dyer on her research agenda, research projects and publications;
- Being an active researcher, conducting research, including supporting the design and piloting of interviews and surveys and planning and undertaking fieldwork/conferences and analysing data;
- Preparing and collaborating on publications;
- Drafting project reports and preparing conference talks and project report contributions;
- Presenting research findings to academic and professional audiences and communicating complex data in accessible ways;
- Developing and supporting research applications and proposals for funding in the specified research area;
- Contributing to research planning and development within the School, where appropriate;
- Taking a lead role in project management, including keeping track of delivery towards outputs and contributing to quarterly and annual reporting;
- Delivering specialist teaching on undergraduate and postgraduate modules in the School, covering education and social policy in international development (for a maximum of 20% of your time);
- Balancing the competing pressures of research demands and deadlines.

These duties provide a framework for the role and should not be regarded as a definitive list. Other reasonable duties may be required, as consistent with the grade of the post.

What will you bring to the role?

As a Research Fellow you will have:

- A PhD in Sociology, Anthropology, Education, International Development, or related discipline with knowledge of debates and literature in elementary education;
- Evidence of a strong interest in and understanding of the research topic;
- Demonstrable research knowledge of elementary education contexts and policy in India;



- Experience in qualitative data analysis, with a strong understanding of ethnographic methodologies, and ability to work with mixed research methods;
- Experience in drafting reports and contributing to writing for academic publication to a high standard;
- Demonstrable potential to deliver high quality academic publications;
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills, including giving presentations, writing blogs, policy briefs, preparing presentations and engaging effectively with a wide range of stakeholders;
- Excellent planning, organisational and time management skills with the ability to liaise with a range of professionals across diverse settings, including evidence of project management and/or event management;
- The capacity to manage own workload and work independently to tight deadlines within guidelines provided;
- A high level of attention to detail and accuracy;
- A proven ability to work well both individually and in a team.

You may also have:

- Experience of research project management;
- Experience of working with diverse, multi-disciplinary teams;
- A track record of academic or other types of publications;
- A good working knowledge of Hindi.

How to apply

You can apply for this role online; more guidance can be found on our [How to Apply](#) information page. Applications should be submitted by **23.59** (UK time) on the advertised closing date.

Contact information

To explore the post further or for any queries you may have, please contact:

Professor Caroline Dyer, Professor in the School of Politics and International Studies

Tel: +44 (0)113 343 4402

Email: c.dyer@leeds.ac.uk



Additional information

About the role

You will be responsible to the Dean of Faculty and report to the Head of School, with day to day reporting to the Principal Investigator.

The post is based in the School of Politics and International Studies / Centre for Global Development at the University of Leeds. The project is in collaboration with the Faculty of Education in Cambridge, UK, and Vidya Bhavan in Rajasthan, India and may require travel to India to collaborate with project partners.

The project explores relational accountability in education. It studies differing understandings of education quality and equity held by actors across four scales of the education system in India: home, community, school, and bureaucracy. The study takes key provisions of India's Right to Education (RtE) Act to identify how practical actions converge and diverge with goals for learning and impact on learning outcomes. It will draw out implications for equitable learner participation and achievement. It uses qualitative and quantitative methods to examine both the formal rule-based relations of education system actors, and the informal, everyday practices of accountability. The multi-disciplinary research team comprises educationists, sociologists and economists, in collaboration with two NGO research partners in India, working in the states of Rajasthan and Bihar.

This is a full-time post, with 80% of your time being spent on the research project and the remaining 20% of your time on teaching education and international development.

Find out more about our [School](#) and [Faculty](#).

Working at Leeds

Find out more about the benefits of working at the University and what it is like to live and work in the Leeds area on our [Working at Leeds](#) information page.

Candidates with disabilities

Information for candidates with disabilities, impairments or health conditions, including requesting alternative formats, can be found on our [Accessibility](#) information page or by getting in touch with us at disclosure@leeds.ac.uk.



Criminal record information

Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974

A criminal record check is not required for this position. However, all applicants will be required to declare if they have any 'unspent' criminal offences, including those pending.

Any offer of appointment will be in accordance with our Criminal Records policy. You can find out more about required checks and declarations in our [Criminal Records](#) information page.

