



Job Description

This form summarises the purpose of the job and lists its key tasks. It is not a definitive list of all the tasks to be undertaken as those can be varied from time to time at the discretion of the School, in consultation with the postholder.

Job title: Research Fellow

Department/Division: Social Policy
Accountable to: Professor Mikko Myrskylä

Job Summary:

The Department of Social Policy at LSE is the longest established in the UK and has received the highest possible rating in all Research Assessment Exercises carried out in the UK. The Department carries out research in a range of social policy-related areas, and hosts the Ageing, Lifecourse and Population Health Analysis (ALPHA) research unit that focuses on individual and population health.

The Department is seeking to recruit one or two full-time Research Fellows to work in Professor Mikko Myrskylä's European Research Council funded project on the causes and consequences of changing family structure. The Research Fellows will be working in close collaboration with Prof. Myrskylä and other Research Fellows of the project, and their broader working environment within the LSE will be the ALPHA research unit and the Social Policy Department.

Candidates will have a PhD in a relevant area, a track record of publishing in peer-reviewed journals and demonstrated advanced statistical skills. A substantive interest and publication record on the determinants of fertility, or on family and health, as well as experience in modelling longitudinal data is useful. Starting date is as soon as possible, and the duration of the contract is flexible but not beyond January 31, 2019.

The successful candidate(s) will primarily work on one research strand within the ERC funded COSTPOST project. The broad description of the project is to analyse the causes and consequences of changing family structure. Potential topics may include changing family size or changes in the timing of fertility or age at childbearing, and the determinants and consequences of these processes. The candidate(s) are expected to be able to self direct their research and develop research ideas and sub-projects within the COSTPOST project. They will also contribute to wider COSTPOST activities, including participating actively in all project team meetings and events, contributing to articles and other outputs as well as planned knowledge exchange activities.

The postholder will be expected to play an active role in the life of the Department and ALPHA, and identify other opportunities for the development of the Department's and the Research Group's research agenda linked to their area of interest.



Duties/Responsibilities:

Developing a coherent programme of research on the causes and consequences of changing family structure. This includes:

- Collaborating with the COSTPOST team by both taking the lead in writing articles for publication, and by co-authoring with others as lead authors; and by leading a small project team, or assisting in the running of the research group, under the overall direction of the Principal Investigator.
- Producing high-quality publications in peer reviewed outlets.
- Presenting research findings at national and international conferences.

Contributing to wider Department and ALPHA activities, including (as appropriate):

- Playing a constructive role in the life of the Department and the ALPHA Unit; including acting as a point of reference for others and contributing to the development of new knowledge and understanding within the field and/or developing a national/international reputation for research in their area of expertise.
- Contributing to conferences, seminars and workshops.

In addition, the generic role profile for an LSE Research Fellow is as follows:

Research Fellows will normally carry a level of responsibility and a range of duties appropriate to a person with substantial research experience. A Research Fellow will normally hold a PhD, or through other research experience will show the capability to produce independent original research. They will generally work under the direction of a Principal Investigator or Centre Director on project-specific contracts. A distinguishing feature from Research Officer level will be involvement in leading a small project team or assisting in the running of a large research group, under the overall direction of a Principal Investigator/Centre Director.

Range of Activities and Responsibilities

- Developing a coherent programme(s) of research;
- Demonstrating the ability to analyse and research complex ideas, concepts or theories and applying appropriate methodologies;
- Formulating peer reviewed research grant applications;
- Leading a small project team or assisting in the running of a large research group;
- Developing a body of high-quality publications in peer reviewed outlets;
- Acting as a reviewer for academic journals and research grant applications;
- Initiating and sustaining links with external bodies to foster collaboration and influence decision-making;
- Presenting research at national and international conferences;
- Organising conferences, seminars and workshops;
- Developing creative approaches to research challenges;
- Acting as a point of reference for others and contributing to the development of new knowledge and understanding within the field;
- Developing a national/international reputation for research in their area of expertise;
- Playing a constructive role in the life of the Centre/Institute/Department;
- Training and managing the work of research assistants.

All of the above subject to the contractual obligations imposed by the external funding agency and with the agreement of the grant-holder, Principal Investigator and/or Centre Director.

Note

The LSE has a progressive pay structure that rewards you with annual pay increases up to a certain level as you develop in your role. We also provide for further reward past this point in the form of further pay increases based on exceptional performance.

**Flexibility**

To deliver services effectively, a degree of flexibility is needed, and the post holder may be required to perform work not specifically referred to above.

Equality and Diversity

To uphold the School's commitment to equality of respect and opportunity, as set out in the [Ethics Code](#), we will treat all people with dignity and respect, and ensure that no one will be treated less favourably because of their role at the School, age, sex, disability, gender identity, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, or social and economic background. For the full Equity, Diversity and Inclusion policy statement, please see the [EDI website](#)

Environmental Sustainability

The post holder is required to minimise environmental impact in the performance of the role, and actively contribute to the delivery of the LSE Environmental Policy.