



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 Officer in Digital Futures for Children

Department/Centre/Institute: Department of Media and Communications
Accountable to: Professor Sonia Livingstone

Job summary

Digital Futures for Children (DFC) is a joint research centre between LSE and 5Rights Foundation. Through critical and practical research, the DFC aims to generate insights and innovative solutions to ensure that the digital environment respects and promotes children's rights. It will provide an evidence base for advocacy, facilitate dialogue between academics and policymakers, amplify children's voices and foster collaboration among relevant experts and stakeholders. The remit and framework is provided by General Comment 25 of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child which sets out how the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child applies in relation to the digital environment.

This new initiative will be launched in September 2023 and run for three years in the first instance. This will build on already-established work by the Digital Futures Commission (see www.digitalfuturescommission.org.uk) and will extend its engagement with external stakeholders by undertaking external research commissions, convening deliberative discussions, and collaborating with relevant experts and the wider research and policy community committed to examining and promoting children's rights in the digital environment.

They will work under the direction and guidance of the DFC Director to deliver a research plan that consists of the following elements:

- Enhance research quality through clear guidelines for the peer review of the DFC's and others' research on children's rights in digital environments, to embed stakeholder understanding of high-quality research and focus policy attention on the most insightful and rigorous research.
- Ensure meaningful engagement with children and young people so that their voices, experiences, and perspectives actively shape the development of our policies, practices, and recommendations, fostering research outcomes that authentically address their needs and rights.
- Commission and manage external research projects, subject to funding, together with longer-form research reviews on critical topics that offer a deeper understanding of the challenges facing children and young people in the digital world and provide valuable insights for policymakers, educators, and innovators to create more child-rights-respecting digital products and services.
- Rapid response research briefs will provide succinct summaries of peer-reviewed research with brief evaluative commentary to inform advocacy. These briefs will allow us to respond quickly to emerging issues and provide timely, relevant information for policymakers, educators, and innovators.
- We will convene deliberative discussions (with published event reports), bringing together experts, policymakers, educators, and innovators to explore critical topics related to our research agenda, creating a space for dialogue and collaboration regarding the challenges facing children and young people in the digital world.



- Ad hoc responses: We will respond to emerging issues and findings by finding and sharing relevant research for 5Rights advocacy. By staying abreast of the latest developments in the digital world, we can ensure that our research remains relevant and impactful.

Duties and responsibilities

Working under the direction and guidance of the DFC Director, the Research Officer will deliver the above-outlined research plan. Duties and responsibilities will include the following:

- Analyse and research complex ideas, concepts, theories and findings relating to children's rights in the digital environment.
- Demonstrate expertise in designing, conducting and critiquing appropriate methodologies.
- Review, synthesise and disseminate a wide range of relevant research from multiple disciplines.
- Design and manage a process of peer review for assessing research commissions and reports.
- Contribute to the formulation of peer reviewed research grant proposals.
- Write up research for publication in a variety of modes including peer reviewed journals, expert reports and public-facing outlets.
- Initiate, manage and sustain links with external bodies and research contacts to foster collaboration and dialogue.
- Present research findings at academic and policy conferences and events.
- Organise conferences, seminars/webinars and workshops.
- Contribute creative solutions to research challenges.
- Play a constructive role in the life of the DFC and Department.
- Manage the activities of research assistants and external researchers on a day-to-day basis.
- To carry out day-to-day administrative and management work associated with the programme of research.

Activities relating to administration and management and/or School service may include:

- Playing a constructive role in the life of the Centre/Institute/Department.
- Managing the activities of research assistants on a day-to-day basis.

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 Head of Centre.

Flexibility

To deliver services effectively, a degree of flexibility may be required in the duties performed in order to meet the exigencies of service. Job roles may also naturally develop over time and ongoing substantial changes to a role will be discussed between line managers and their staff, with job descriptions updated as and when appropriate.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)

LSE is committed to building a diverse, equitable and truly inclusive university. All posts (and post holders) will seek to ensure diversity and inclusion, while opposing all forms of unlawful and unfair discrimination on the grounds of age, disability, gender identity, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, nationality, ethnic or national origin, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation, or social and economic background.

Ethics Code

Posts (and post holders) are assumed to have a responsibility to act in accordance with the School's Ethics Code and to promote the principles and values that the Code enshrines. The Ethics Code clearly states that the whole LSE community, including all staff, students, and governors of LSE, are expected to act in accordance with the principles which are set out in the Code. As such you are required to read and



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familiarise yourself with it. The School's Effective Behaviours Framework is designed to support this Code. It sets out examples for the six behaviours that all staff are expected to demonstrate, these can be found on the following link: [click here](#)

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.