Leeds Social Sciences Institute  
PGR Placement Fellowship Opportunity  

‘Evaluation of the Impacts of Community Impact Programmes’  

with Business in the Community  
(2 days per week for 13 weeks from April 2011)

The Leeds Social Science Institute is launching a PGR Placement Fellowship Scheme for social science post graduate researchers interested in working in a research capacity in a range of local organisations. The Scheme encourages social science post graduate researchers to engage with the needs of external organisations and to build the knowledge gained from the placement into their future research plans.

The successful applicants will receive a bursary funded by University of Leeds Higher Education Innovation Fund.

Research Organisation: Business in the Community  

Project Title:  Evaluation of the Impacts of Community Impact Programmes'  

Length of Fellowship:  2 days per week for 13 weeks  

Proposed start date:  April 2011  

Location of Fellowship Pudsey  

EXPECTED TASKS  
The focus of the research would be to evaluate the social and economic impacts of our Community Impact Programmes in Leeds. Although, we collect mainly quantitative data we do not have the capacity to conduct retrospective evaluation to determine the sustained social and economic impact of our programmes. This research would be hugely beneficial enabling us to evidence the sustainable community benefits through corporate community investment. This placement would be at Business in the Community, based in the Yorkshire & Humber office in Pudsey and managed by Jo Crossley, Deputy Regional Director.

This research would require developing measures and obtaining feedback from a wide range of community organisations across Leeds through surveys and interviews. This would give the researcher the opportunity to interact with a diverse range of community groups and gain a unique insight into the voluntary sector. The end result would be an Evaluation Report. The scope and sample size would be determined at the outset with Jo Crossley.

The majority of this work will be undertaken directly by the post graduate researcher. Business in the Community will develop a programme of work for the students and provide suitable office accommodation and equipment.

SKILLS REQUIRED  

- Proven qualitative and/or quantitative research skills  
- Ability to translate research findings into practical policy proposals  
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills  
- Ability to work with a wide range of academic and non-academic partners
BACKGROUND

Business in the Community - Profile

Business in the Community are a business-led charity with a growing membership of 850 companies, from large multi-national household names to small local businesses and public sector organisations. They advise, support and challenge their members to create a sustainable future for people and the planet and to improve business performance.

Their members work with them to define what responsibility looks like in the workplace, marketplace, community and the environment - and they share what they learn about driving performance through responsible business practice. They are one of the Prince’s Charities, and operate through a national head office and nine regional teams in England, plus Wales and Northern Ireland. Business in the Community provides companies a framework for responsible business across their four areas of expertise, Workplace, Marketplace, Environment and Community.

Find out more at www.bitc.org.uk.

Community Impact

This placement would be set in the context of their Community Impact area of expertise, within this they aim to embed community investment into mainstream business practice to maximise business benefits and social and economic impacts. This includes:

- Addressing the key social issues relating to the business
- Supporting economic growth in local communities, particularly deprived areas
- Inspiring, training and employing people from excluded groups
- Developing and motivating employees through volunteering

Business supporters of the Community Impact Programmes primarily invest in their local community through their employees' skills and time during business hours.

The overarching aim the Community Impact Programme is ‘to help people overcome social barriers and build successful working lives’.

Business in the Community provides a brokerage service and also campaigns nationally to increase the impact of businesses in communities of greatest need and address social issues including education, employability and economic renewal.

The post graduate researcher will be based with the Business in the Community team at Pudsey and will work closely with policy officers within the Team to deliver the project. The student will also work with the Director of the Leeds Social Sciences Institute to evaluate the success of the placement and identify other opportunities for placements within Business in the Community and partner organisations.

Where the student would be involved in working with vulnerable groups they would have to undergo relevant CRB checks. Any research involving the student in direct contact with the public (e.g. interviews) would also have to go be approved by the University Ethics Committee.

Leeds Social Sciences Institute will fund the placement through HEIF funds, providing a bursary of £1300, and the placement must be completed by the 31st July 2011.
This project supports the Institutes’ strategic objective to enhance partnerships between social scientists and the public and third sector, to maximise the impact of our research and to make a valuable contribution to society. It is also in line with the ESRC’s strategic objective to extend and deepen knowledge exchange networks across the public, private and third sectors.

The student will be able to use the results of this study (suitably anonymised and with ethical approval from the appropriate University of Leeds committee) to produce a range of academic publications and presentations.

The closing date for this call is **Friday 8 April**.

**Applicants should submit a short cv plus a statement explaining why they would like to take up this opportunity, what experiences and skills make them suited to the position and what this work will contribute towards their research plans to Sophia Kennedy at s.kennedy@leeds.ac.uk.**

Applications will be considered by the panel and successful applicants will be notified within two weeks of the application closing date. **Written confirmation of support from the applicant’s supervisor will be required with the application.**

Any enquiries please contact Sophia Kennedy at S.Kennedy@Leeds.ac.uk  
-OR-  
Jo Crossley, Regional Deputy Director Tel: 0113 205 8202 E: jo.crossley@btc.org.uk