

LSSI Postgraduate Researcher - Placement Opportunity

An exciting opportunity has arisen for a Postgraduate Researcher to work on a project with a prominent start up business in Nexus.

[Focus Facilitation Ltd](#) is a start-up and member of the [Nexus Community](#). Focus Facilitation engage with business stakeholders to surface and model key data points for them. Currently a single person enterprise in a pre-trading research phase, various key questions that are pivotal to the direction and success of the enterprise remain unanswered and therefore open to participation from volunteer research.

The project

Focus Facilitation has developed a new and potentially breakthrough digital research platform. Two key uncertainties are:

- *How will the application be received by users in academia*
- *How will the application be received by users in business.*

These uncertainties require skilled investigation, using actual research exercises and using the new research platform, to address:

- *General observations and feedback*
- *Specific features*
- *Concerns and issues*
- *User experience*
- *Value brought by use of the unique new features*
- *Opinions on costs users would be willing to pay for using the platform.*

Proposed timescales

This placement would be 130 hours in total to start in January 2021.

You would be expected to commit a minimum of 5 hours per week over 26 weeks. Ongoing commitments to consulting clients of Focus Facilitation means that communication with the placement holder may be outside of normal working hours.

The placement will be conducted remotely, no equipment will be provided so you will need to be able to access a laptop/computer/phone and internet connection.

The successful candidate will be provided a bursary of £1950
All supervision will be by Jeremy Warhurst, the Director of Focus Facilitation.

The ideal candidate and skills required/eligibility

This placement opportunity is open to any PGRs deemed 51% social science, regardless of who they are funded by or what Faculty they are based in.

- *Rapport*, good remote communication skills, phone, Skype etc
- *Analysis*, ability to address observations, causes and effects critically
- *Creativity*, ability to think widely about possible causes and effects
- *Adaption*, ability to implement changes, ability to identify possible changes
- *Assurance*, ability to collect evidence and collate evidence
- *Argument*, understand the difference between internal and external argument.
- An understanding of the University of Leeds ethical Procedures and able to submit an ethical review in partnership with INC360 to the University of Leeds Ethics team

The anticipated benefits to the PGRs skills/experience

The PGR will be exposed to real world issues relating to business research. For these placements to be a success the PGR will need to understand the wider context of the business, this context is drawn from 3 decades of experience in accounting, IT and Change, across Public Sector, 3rd Sector and Private Sector. The intention of the research platform tool (and the other tools under development) is solving issues which occur in all these sectors and settings, meaning the PGR will gain valuable knowledge exchange from their involvement in this project.

If you are interested in applying for this placement position please send:

- CV
- Cover Letter – addressing how you meet the candidate criteria
- Email or signature from your Supervisor that they are happy for you to undertake the placement

To LSSI Business Partnership Manager Hannah Crow H.E.Crow@leeds.ac.uk by **Monday 7th December at 12 noon.**