



LSSI Postgraduate Researcher - Placement Opportunity

Leeds Community Foundation is Yorkshire's largest independent grant-maker. They provide financial support in the form of grants to community projects that help to improve the quality of life of people living in disadvantaged communities or who are from vulnerable backgrounds. Thanks to the generosity of individuals, businesses and public sector organisations, they have distributed over £42m since we awarded their first grant in 2005.

The Placement Project:

'Taking the Pulse of Leeds's Diverse Communities' project - This project would be instrumental in updating and strengthening Leeds Community Foundation's expertise around the needs, priorities and aspirations of our diverse communities, with a focus on Third Sector Organisations led by, or primarily supporting, minority/underserved groups including LGBTQ+ people, people with disabilities and/or minority ethnic groups.

Whilst an extensive search and synthesis of data and reports on the landscape of these diverse minority Leeds communities and their needs would generate valuable data to help us target our grant-making more effectively, we are keen to hear the *voice* of Third Sector Organisations, grass-root community groups and the people they serve, to identify the priorities, issues and lack of opportunities that they face (including those which may have been exacerbated in these Covid times), as well as the barriers that groups and organisations experience in terms of accessing grant-making, especially Leeds Community Foundation's grant-making.

To achieve this, the postgraduate student would closely work with Leeds Community Foundation staff to:

1. Research Leeds organisations (both constituted and unconstituted) supporting these specific communities (via the Charities Commission, Companies House, local networks, internet search etc.)
2. Design and pilot on a small scale, refine and then implement more widely, a consultation approach. This would include a comprehensive survey to Leeds Third Sector Organisations identified via stage 1, and also, potentially, focus groups with a sample of people from these communities in the city.

Proposed timescales

The weekly hours are flexible and are to be agreed by the successful PGR and the LCF team. The maximum placement hours are 130. As an example, previously placements have been 10 hours a week over 13 weeks.

The PGR would be working from home with access to Leeds Community Foundation's systems and with supervision provided by Katharine Greathead, Head of Evaluation and Impact.

No equipment will be provided so you will need to be able to access a laptop/computer and internet connection.

The successful candidate will be provided a bursary of £1950

The ideal candidate and skills required

- An interest in and knowledge of the voluntary sector and local communities (or a strong desire to increase this knowledge);
- An interest in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI);
- An ability to research and select optimum survey questionnaire/focus group approaches;
- Strong data analysis skills (including potential statistical analysis);
- Excellent organisational, communication (written and oral, with a range of audiences) and IT skills;
- Ability to use own initiative but work well as part of a small team; high motivation and good time management.
- An understanding of the University of Leeds ethical Procedures and able to submit an ethical review in partnership with LCF to the University of Leeds Ethics team.

The anticipated benefits to the student's skills/experience

An opportunity to collaborate in a vibrant work environment within the Third Sector; increased knowledge and understanding of a range of organisations and communities and the needs they have with a focus on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI); practical experience of running a short, impactful project from start to finish; opportunity to report research outcomes (written and/or orally) to the DEI working group, Impact and Grants Subcommittees and wider Leeds Community Foundation team; play a key role in influencing Leeds Community Foundation's future grant-making and DEI strategy and partnerships; leave a legacy of this consultation approach and templates for Leeds Community Foundation to re- use in Leeds at intervals and roll out to Bradford (where we also operate).

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 Wednesday 20th January at 5pm.