

A leadership programme for supporting young refugees

There is an urgent need for school leaders across the UK to have access to specialist training in refugee education.

Dr Robert Sharples, an expert in refugee, bilingual and mobile learners will lead a team of 6 PhD students from Bristol and Bath Universities, to create a suite of training materials for UK school leaders, with three commercial education providers: Better Bilingual, Hounslow Language Service and the EAL Academy.

University of Bristol PhD student Jáfia Naftali Câmara says *'It is more important than ever to support school leaders in addressing the educational needs of refugee students.'*

University of Bath PhD student, Tom Avery says *'This project addresses many of the continuing professional development gaps for school leaders, that I've seen first-hand'.*

The companies will share access to the bespoke academic input, draft the training materials, share them for peer learning & user testing facilitated by the academic team, and then refine the products for commercial use.

Dr Robert Sharples, University of Bristol says *'These companies are well respected for the quality of their work, and they have the capacity to develop and deliver the training and materials for school leaders, at a scale we would never be able to do alone.'*

Applying the team's research expertise will overcome the high barrier to creating new educational material.

University of Bristol PhD student Ava Khalfaoui says *'Practical resources will be available to teachers and schools that is based on top quality research.'*

Anamaria Fonseca, PhD student at the University of Bristol says *'This project will assist schools in a direct and effective way in addressing the educational needs of refugee students.'*

There is currently little institutional expertise in refugee education for school leaders to fall back on. But there is huge demand. The UK government's Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme has prioritised families at risk and aims to resettle 20,000 people across the UK.

University of Bristol PhD student Sophia Soares says *'Having been directly exposed to the lack of appropriate provision for young refugee learners in the UK, I feel strongly about getting this training in place.'*

University of Bristol PhD student Martin Preston says *'The needs of the learners are at the heart of this project'.*

Additional information

Project title: Leadership programme for supporting young refugees.

Funder: this project is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council Accelerating Business Collaboration fund.

People:

- Project lead; Dr Robert Sharples, Lecturer in Language and Education, School of Education, University of Bristol.
- Jáfia Naftali Câmara, PhD student, School of Education, University of Bristol
- Tom Avery, PhD student, Department of Education, University of Bath
- Ava Khalfaoui, PhD student, School of Education, University of Bristol
- Anamaria Fonseca, PhD student, School of Law, University of Bristol
- Sophia Soares, PhD student, School of Law, University of Bristol
- Martin Preston, PhD student, School of Education, University of Bristol

Company information:

- Better Bilingual specialise in enhancing educational provision for pupils from Black, Asian and Ethnic Minority (BAME) backgrounds, many of whom have English as an Additional Language (EAL) <http://www.betterbilingual.co.uk>
- The EAL Academy are school improvement specialists and leaders in the fields of academic literacy, ethnic minority achievement and English as an additional language <https://www.theealacademy.co.uk>
- Hounslow Language Service is an experienced training and consultancy team specialising in developing the language of English learners in the classroom. <https://www.ealhls.org.uk>
- The academic team bring a wealth of expertise on international education; refugee learners in the UK, US, Europe, Middle East and Africa; and international human rights and refugee law.

For more information contact: Dr Robert Sharples, University of Bristol
robert.sharples@bristol.ac.uk

About the University of Bristol

The University is ranked within the top 10 universities in the UK and top 60 in the world (QS World University Rankings 2021); it is also ranked among the top five institutions in the UK for its research, according to analysis of the Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2014; and is the 4th most targeted university by top UK employers.

The University was founded in 1876 and was granted its Royal Charter in 1909. It was the first university in England to admit women on the same basis as men.

The University is a major force in the economic, social and cultural life of Bristol and the region, but is also a significant player on the world stage. It has over 20,000 undergraduates and over 7,000 postgraduate students from more than 100 countries, and its research links span the globe.