

Start date	Interview date
Jan 2022 – to be negotiated with successful applicants.	w/c 29th November or w/c 6th December
Duration of role	Salary
200 hours	£9.50/hour
Working pattern	Number of roles available
Part-time during term-time (min. 7.5 hours per week) with the additional hours during University vacation periods.	2
Location	Deadline for applications
A mix of working at University of Bristol and Wellspring Settlement, and some online work.	12 midday, Thursday 11 November 2021
Eligibility	
<p>To apply for the role of Research Assistant through the Bristol Model you must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be a current undergraduate student in the Faculty of Social Sciences and Law; OR • be a recent graduate (within six months of graduation) of an undergraduate degree in the Faculty of Social Sciences and Law. <p>Applicants must also be living in the UK for the entire duration of the role.</p> <p>For further details, including a full list of eligible programmes, please visit our website.</p>	

1. Project overview

[Wellspring Settlement](#) is a thriving community organisation in Barton Hill that supports people to learn, develop and build fulfilled and happy lives. UoB has been working with Wellspring Settlement for several years and this project has been running for 18 months based at UoB's new '[Micro-campus](#)'.

Wellspring Settlement runs multiple services/projects that relate to health and wellbeing, community inclusion, money and work support, family services and community gardening. Each service/project comes with specific requirements concerning the monitoring of service users' data, and the Settlement operates a database called 'Focus' to track service users' interactions. This database contains a wealth of information about users of the Settlement which can provide bottom-up detail about the attributes, needs and achievements of the local communities.

The primary aim of the research is to build understanding that can capture the social value that is generated from local resident's interactions with Wellspring Settlement and use data processing techniques to inform ongoing development of service provision by the Settlement.

2. Role description

Two Research Assistants are being recruited for the **third** phase of project based at Wellspring Settlement.

In Phase One the research team investigated the following:

1. From interviews with Settlement staff
 - How do staff running different services/projects currently use the database?
 - What functionality or outputs would database users like the database to achieve?
2. Through interrogating the Focus database, to understand what information the database currently holds.
3. Reviewed the functionality of Focus and identified limitations.
4. Generated recommendations for how to improve Focus.

In Phase Two the research team investigated the following:

1. Through interviews with service users, to understand how well the data held on the Focus database reflects the knowledge, hopes and aspirations of people who use Settlement services.
2. Compare the interviews insights with Focus records.
3. Start to map out the demographic profile of service users.

In Phase Three the research team's work will include:

1. Conduct further interviews of service users identified through Focus data analysis to develop the theoretical modelling of social value.
2. Interview service users from Wellspring Healthy Living Centre to generate in-depth stories of service users and help generate creative outputs.
3. Data trawls of Focus to map service provision and service user demographics.
4. Compare insights with other publicly available datasets (for example census) to understand what additional community anchor generated knowledge can bring.
5. Exploring the possibilities and limitations of rolling-out the database across the city into other communities.

3. Person specification

We are looking for two undergraduate students who will work together as student researchers as part of the research team and will also work closely with the staff team of Wellspring Settlement.

The role of the student researchers is to:

- Bring social science research skills to developing the focused community interviews with local residents.
- Identify and interrogate relevant databases to provide rich understandings of local demographics.
- Write a report on the outputs on Phase 3 and present these findings to the Wellspring staff team.

At least one of the successful candidates will have training and /or experience of **quantitative research methods**. We are also seeking candidates who have:

- Training and/or experience of qualitative research methods
- Training and/or experience of using databases

All research will be carried out in accordance with the University of Bristol's current guidelines for ensuring researcher and participant safety.

4. Overview of induction and ongoing support/supervision

The student researchers will be supervised by the Research Associate for the project, Jack Nicholls, who will provide academic and research support. Morag McDermont, Professor of Socio-Legal Studies, provides academic leadership and support for the project.

The student researchers will also work closely with staff members at the Wellspring Settlement responsible for the community survey, who will help with understanding the Settlement, informing their lines of enquiry with regards to the Settlement's projects and database users.

5. Additional info

The roles will require the successful candidates to work remotely and have access to a laptop or computer and internet connection. If you need support in any of these areas, please email fssl-pln@bristol.ac.uk when you submit your application.

For a detailed outline of the application process, tips for applying and links to application and interview support provided by the Careers Service see our [Bristol Model Research Assistant guidance document](#).

Any questions please contact the Professional Liaison Network – fssl-pln@bristol.ac.uk