

Start date	Interview date
19 April 2022	Thursday 17 & Friday 18 March 2022
Duration of role	Salary
200 hours	£9.67/hour
Working pattern	Number of roles available
Flexible	6
Location	Deadline for applications
Bristol	12 midday, Thursday 3 March 2022
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>For further details, including a full list of eligible programmes, please visit our website.</p>	

1. Project overview
<p>The Bristol Model programme, funded by Office for Students and Research England, includes six substantive knowledge exchange research projects with external partners, led and managed by an academic Principal Investigator and a Research Associate. Paid student Research Assistants are a key feature of these co-produced projects, each with an aim to address specific social and/or economic challenges.</p> <p>A seventh strand for which we are recruiting Research Assistants, consists of an overarching evaluation which aims to provide an academically robust evaluation of the Bristol Model in these six projects, listed on our website.</p> <p>The Evaluation strand aims to understand the impact of involvement in Bristol Model research on students, the academic community and external partners through identifying the key features of successful involvement in order to inform the development of this type of student-involved Knowledge Exchange (KE) within the University and in Higher Education generally. The evaluation will develop an understanding of how direct benefits may vary depending on different activities and settings, and deliver an understanding of how to optimise both student and external partner benefit.</p> <p>The Evaluation project is based in the School of Education and is being conducted with the University's Professional Liaison Network (PLN) office as a partner.</p>

Work on the Evaluation during restrictions imposed by the pandemic has been undertaken by the two Research Associates, Pat Triggs and Wan Ching Yee. The project is now at a stage when recruitment of Research Assistants will enable, in particular, *a focus on researching the student experience*.

2. Role description

We are looking for six undergraduate students who will join the Evaluation strand and work together as Research Assistants on this project. The Research Assistants will work in pairs and as a student team, with the project Research Associates as leads. Allocation of work time over the course of the project will be flexible and negotiable in response to the availability of the Research Assistants and the development of the project. We particularly want to understand the role of students in knowledge exchange.

Research Assistants are likely to be involved in:

- Conducting desk-based research that will inform an area for focus and feed into written outputs from the research
- Developing and refining research questions in a specific area and developing an appropriate research design to investigate this area
- Taking a lead role in conducting the resulting field work using a range of mainly qualitative research methods including interviews, focus groups and informal conversation
- Designing and administering questionnaires
- Using reflexive techniques such as blogs or video diaries
- Performing qualitative and quantitative data analysis where appropriate
- Working with the team collaboratively in shaping group-based reflections and emergent conclusions

With support, if necessary, the Research Assistants will also be expected to contribute their research towards interim/final reports that discuss the project findings and to contribute as appropriate to the dissemination of the project findings

3. Person specification

Essential:

- We are looking for Research Assistants who are fascinated by the challenges of conducting evaluations and enthusiastic about gaining experience of the research process.
- An awareness of ethical issues in social research and of a range of social science research methods, including the strengths and weaknesses of those most frequently used: interviews, questionnaires/surveys, focus groups. This may be through applicants' degree course work, however applicants whose courses do not include research methods will be considered.
- We are looking for well-developed interpersonal communication skills, especially in understanding contexts, establishing empathy and trust.
- Applicants should have strong desk-based research skills including literature reviews.
- Applicants should also be good writers, able to communicate with clarity and precision and to different audiences.
- We are looking for applicants who are reliable, self-motivated, with attention to detail and a high level of skill in organizing and completing tasks and hitting deadlines.

Desirable:

- Some direct experience of evaluation or a social research programme would be beneficial but the posts are open to applicants who cannot offer this.
- Skill in use of IT for capturing and editing visual data for dissemination would be desirable but not essential.

4. Overview of induction and ongoing support/supervision

Orientation guidance meetings at the start for all six Research Assistants will be designed to brief them on the background to and overall aims of the evaluation and the current stage of development of the project.

These meetings will help the Research Assistants to shape their research questions and develop appropriate and feasible research designs.

Regular monthly team meetings will be arranged to update the whole team, to review progress, and discuss development.

Research Assistants can expect to:

- receive guidance on how to conduct the research
- be given the opportunity to contribute ideas and actively participate in shaping the research
- be in regular communication with the Research Associates and the other Research Assistants
- receive support with any issues that arise in carrying out the research, and with trouble-shooting

5. Additional info

The roles will require the successful candidates to work remotely at times and as appropriate, and therefore 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