



**UNIVERSITY OF LINCOLN  
JOB DESCRIPTION**

<b>JOB TITLE</b>	Post Doctoral Research Associate				
<b>DEPARTMENT</b>	School of Social and Political Sciences				
<b>LOCATION</b>	Lincoln Campuses				
<b>JOB NUMBER</b>	CASH074	<b>GRADE</b>	7	<b>DATE</b>	March 2026
<b>REPORTS TO</b>	Alex Oaten				

**CONTEXT**

The post-holder will be working full-time on a Wellcome Discovery Award funded project entitled 'Discovering Liveability: Coproducing alternatives to suicide prevention'. 'Discovering Liveability' is a 7-year collaborative research project, led by an interdisciplinary team of academics, practitioners and people with lived/living experiences of suicide who are based at the University of Lincoln, University of Edinburgh and Mind in Camden. The project aims to conduct a wide-ranging, qualitatively driven, and co-produced inquiry into the possibilities of 'liveability' as a focus for suicide prevention; establish, grow and critically evaluate approaches centring lived and living experiences of suicide; and interrogate the role of politics and policies in shaping the possibilities for 'liveability'. The project is split into 4 Work Packages. The postholder will work on Work Package 2: The role of community-based and peer-led services in creating and sustaining liveable lives.

**JOB PURPOSE**

This post is for a Fixed Term (36 months) 1.0 FTE Post Doctoral Research Associate who will join Work Package 2 on the 'Discovering Liveability' project, but who will also contribute to other areas of the project as necessary and appropriate. As a Research Associate, the postholder will be responsible for conducting research on the project as directed by the Principal and Co-Investigators/Work Package Leads. The researcher is expected to operate with a significant degree of autonomy. They will not be expected to operate as an independent researcher. The postholder may be required to help supervise the work of more junior researchers.

Work Package 2 (co-led by Alex Oaten, University of Lincoln and Sarah Huque, University of Edinburgh) focuses on community-based practices of care for suicidality. By working collaboratively with a range of organisations, Work Package 2 aims to investigate how care around and support for suicide are provided and experienced in different settings and within different communities. To support this aim, the postholder will conduct participatory ethnographic fieldwork with 2 community-based organisations working to support those experiencing suicidality in England.

This post will be based at the University of Lincoln; ethnographic fieldwork will take place in England, with specific sites determined with input from the successful candidate and the Work Package 2 team. The postholder will also be involved in other Work Package 2 activities including (but not limited to) attending conferences, co-authoring various outputs and supporting other colleagues. All 4 Work Packages on the project work closely together. The

postholder will therefore be expected to maintain links with other Work Packages and to contribute to project-wide activities as appropriate to this grade.

In keeping with the ethos of the 'Discovering Liveability' project, we welcome applicants with their own lived/living experiences of suicidality and who are part of racialised or marginalised communities.

## KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

### Programme of Research

To undertake a programme of research under the direction of the Principal and Co-Investigators, line manager and Work Package 2 Leads, demonstrating a significant level of autonomy. Specifically:

- Identifying, communicating and collaborating with organisations that support those experiencing suicidality
- Conducting long-term participatory ethnographic engagements with relevant community-based organisations
- The analysis of data from the ethnographic fieldwork
- Communicating research findings to academic and general audiences (e.g. through talks and presentations)
- Develop an emerging research profile

Leading in the production of high-quality research outputs, including reports, papers and other publications of national/international standing. This may include:

- Peer-reviewed outputs
- Textbook Chapters
- Briefing papers for policymakers / practitioners
- Public engagement materials
- Lay/public facing materials for use by community-based organisations and non-academic communities

Developing and maintaining an in-depth understanding of suicide studies, such as:

- Conducting relevant literature reviews and searches
- Contributing to project-wide and specialist reading groups
- Ensuring up to date knowledge and familiarity with suicide and suicide related literature

Supporting and contributing to the wider work of the Discovering Liveability project. This will include:

- Collaborating on specific project-wide tasks/activities/groups
- Working across Work Packages to develop relevant outputs
- Sharing research expertise with colleagues across the project
- Attending relevant project-wide meetings, events and activities

### Project Management

Perform project management activities, planning, scheduling, monitoring and reporting on the progress of research. This will include:

- Contributing to the overall planning of research on Work Package 2 (identifying relevant fieldwork sites, establishing and supporting ethical research practice and developing analytical frameworks)
- Scheduling and planning own ethnographic programme of fieldwork and managing own research time
- Monitoring and reporting back to the Work Package 2 Team (and line manager) on the progress of own fieldwork and contributing (with support and guidance from Co-I's and line manager) to the overall monitoring and reporting of the Work Package 2 schedule of work

### **Liaison and Networking**

Identify and liaise with internal and external collaborators and maintain positive and effective working relationships. This will include:

- Networking with a wide range of academic and non-academic partners and collaborators both nationally and, where appropriate, internationally
- Liaising with colleagues across the 'Discovering Liveability' project
- Maintaining effective collaborative working practices with relevant University of Lincoln colleagues
- Contribute to the wider academic environment within the School of Social and Political Sciences and play an active role in the School's research culture

### **Internal Research Activities**

Participate in and help to organise internal research activities, including seminars, research meetings and conferences

This will include contributing to the wider academic environment within the School of Social and Political Sciences by attending relevant research sessions and activities and playing an active role in the school's research culture

### **Continuous Professional Development**

Undertake continuous professional development activities, including (but not limited to):

- Mandatory University of Lincoln training and development
- Mandatory 'Discovering Liveability' training (such as ASSIST training)

### **Grant Applications**

May be required to contribute to the production of grant applications

**In addition to the above, undertake such duties as may reasonably be requested and that are commensurate with the nature and grade of the post.**

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### Scope and dimensions of the role

This is an externally funded research post which provides the postholder with the opportunity to work within a supportive, collaborative and multi-disciplinary project team to generate new and impactful research that will challenge current policy and practice within suicide prevention.

Based within Work Package 2, the postholder will primarily be responsible for conducting long term ethnographic research but will also be expected to contribute to other areas of the 'Discovering Liveability' project where necessary and appropriate.

The University of Lincoln supports hybrid working (on a non-contractual basis), but this is not a remote role and regular attendance on University of Lincoln Campuses to attend meetings, and relevant events will be a requirement. The role will require periods of travel across England to undertake ethnographic fieldwork as well as occasional travel for cross-institutional meetings and other research activities such as conference attendance, for which expenses will be provided.

### Key working relationships/networks

Internal	External
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Line Manager – Alex Oaten</li> <li>• Project Co-Lead – Ana Jordan</li> <li>• Other members of the Discovering Liveability Research Team based within the School of Social and Political Sciences</li> <li>• Head of School of Social and Political Sciences</li> <li>• Other staff within the School of Social and Political Sciences and the University of Lincoln</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project Principal Investigator – Amy Chandler (University of Edinburgh)</li> <li>• Work Package 2 Co-Lead – Sarah Huque (University of Edinburgh)</li> <li>• Other members of the Discovering Liveability Research Team based at University of Edinburgh and Mind in Camden (London)</li> <li>• Community-led organisations, the public, collaborators and academics as appropriate</li> </ul>



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PERSON SPECIFICATION**

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<b>Selection Criteria</b>	<b>Essential (E) or Desirable (D)</b>	<b>Where Evidenced Application (A) Interview (I) Presentation (P) References (R)</b>
<b>Qualifications:</b>		
PhD or equivalent in a social science subject (good candidates may be accepted with a PhD pending, subject to publication record)	<b>E</b>	<b>A</b>
Postgraduate training in qualitative methodologies	<b>E</b>	<b>A/I</b>
<b>Experience:</b>		
Experience of conducting ethnographic (or related) fieldwork	<b>E</b>	<b>A/I</b>
Experience of networking and working with Third Sector and/or community-based organisations or working and/or researching in community settings	<b>E</b>	<b>A/I</b>
Authorship of relevant research outputs of national/international standing (as commensurate with career stage)	<b>E</b>	<b>A/I</b>
Experience of conducting research into sensitive topics, or an awareness of the issues around conducting sensitive research (e.g. suicide)	<b>E</b>	<b>A/I</b>
Experience of engaging and building rapport with individuals of diverse backgrounds. Ability to apply these skills to engage in inter-personal work.	<b>E</b>	<b>A/I</b>
Experience of delivering effective public engagement, particularly relating to mental health/suicide/health inequalities	<b>D</b>	<b>A/I</b>
Experience of working collaboratively with community organisations	<b>D</b>	<b>A/I</b>
Experience of working with marginalised and/or minoritised communities	<b>D</b>	<b>A/I</b>
Experience of working within the field of lived/living experience research, and/or co-production of research with community groups	<b>D</b>	<b>A/I?</b>
<b>Skills and Knowledge:</b>		
Ability to design, conduct and project manage original research into community-based care interventions for suicidality	<b>E</b>	<b>A/I</b>
Understanding and knowledge of critical social science theories (for example, suicide studies/critical suicide studies, Mad studies, critical race theory, gender theory, critical disability/crip studies etc)	<b>E</b>	<b>A/I</b>
Excellent written communication, including the ability to write reports, research outputs and lay summaries for non-academic audiences	<b>E</b>	<b>A/I</b>

Ability to prioritise own workload and work to specified deadlines	<b>E</b>	<b>A/I</b>
Ability to communicate complex subjects orally	<b>E</b>	<b>A/I</b>
Understanding of ethical considerations of qualitative suicide research	<b>E</b>	<b>A/I</b>
Understanding of the field of suicide studies, especially critical approaches to suicide and suicide prevention	<b>D</b>	<b>A/I</b>
<b>Competencies and Personal Attributes:</b>		
Ability to work to deadlines	<b>E</b>	<b>I</b>
Ability to work on own and as part of a team	<b>E</b>	<b>A/I</b>
Enthusiasm and commitment to the aims and objectives of the Discovering Liveability Project	<b>E</b>	<b>I</b>

**Essential Requirements** are those, without which, a candidate would not be able to do the job. **Desirable Requirements** are those which would be useful for the post holder to possess and will be considered when more than one applicant meets the essential requirements.

<b>Author</b>	Alex Oaten	<b>PBP</b>	SP
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