



UNIVERSITY OF LINCOLN
JOB DESCRIPTION

JOB TITLE	Research Assistant				
DEPARTMENT	School of Social and Political Sciences				
LOCATION	Lincoln Campuses				
JOB NUMBER	CASH075	GRADE	6	DATE	March 2026
REPORTS TO	Ana Jordan				

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 as a whole 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'.

JOB PURPOSE

The Research Assistant is responsible for conducting research on the project, as directed by the Principal Investigator and will join Work Package 1 of the '*Discovering Liveability: Coproducing alternatives to suicide prevention*' project. In addition to the salary, the Research Assistant role also comes with tuition fees for the successful applicant to undertake a part-time MPhil/PhD (Postgraduate Research Degree) within the School of Social and Political Sciences, University of Lincoln. The project will fund MPhil/PhD tuition fees.

This role specifically focuses on developing research that is led by and co-produced with people who have lived and/or living experience of suicide and/or suicidality. We are seeking to recruit applicants with the ability to engage their lived/living experience of suicide or suicidality (defined as **personal experience of suicidal thoughts or attempts, suicide bereavement, or caring for someone experiencing suicidality**) to lead their own research project. **We also encourage people from under-represented groups to apply.** You do NOT need to have a postgraduate degree to apply for this position, though applicants with these credentials are welcome to apply.

The postholder will contribute to the Wellcome funded project, '*Discovering Liveability: Coproducing alternatives to suicide prevention*', led by Ana Jordan at UOL and Amy Chandler at UOE. Work Package 1 is co-led by Lynne Gilmour, Sarah Huque, Hazel Marzetti (University of Edinburgh) and Fiona Malpass (Mind in Camden), and is primarily focused on developing research that aims to explore what makes life un/liveable, led by and co-produced with people who have lived and living experience of suicide.

Discovering Liveability is co-produced and centred around lived/ living experience, with Work Package 1 focusing on exploring lived/living experience involvement in current and future

suicide research, policy, and practice, and on establishing a lived and living experience hub. This will become a centre of excellence in lived-experience perspectives on suicide, building a hybrid network of organisations, activists and scholars across the world who are engaged in this work. Collaborators will work together to produce a research agenda addressing the notion of 'liveability' from a range of perspectives and contexts. Over the course of the seven-year project, this hub will house six lived experience researchers (including this role) who will each conduct a co-produced research project. There will be opportunities over the course of the project to become involved with some of the research activities across other work packages where there is interest/capacity.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

Literature Surveys

To undertake literature surveys and other investigations and to prepare reports as required.

Research

The postholder will perform specified research under the direction and with advice from the Principal Investigator (Project Lead), line manager, PhD supervisors, and Work Package Leads. To generate original knowledge, contribute to decisions about research direction, and to prepare reports on results, as required. The research assistant will not be expected to act as an independent researcher, but will design, develop and implement a qualitative research project with extensive support and supervision. This will include activities such as:

- Planning your own day-to-day research activity within the context of the required research programme, exhibiting a high degree of autonomy
- Contributing to the production of research outputs, including reports, papers and other publications, and preparation for and presentation at research conferences.
- Developing a research plan, applying for ethical approval for your research, development of key research materials (information sheets, consent forms)
- Doing your planned research (e.g. interviews, focus groups, arts-based research, documentary analysis, etc), planning arrangements with research participants and analysing the data collected
- Supporting and contributing to the work of the WP1 and DL teams where appropriate
- Contribute to the planning/organising of public engagement activities relating to WP1, and in particular the Lived and Living Experience Hub, as well as wider Discovering Liveability activities such as public events
- Complete relevant training (including PhD training) and coursework and other identified training opportunities relevant to the role and postholder's individual development needs

Liaison and Networking

Liaise with internal and external collaborators, and with colleagues in the School and on the Discovering Liveability project, maintaining positive and effective working relationships; this may include liaison with senior personnel in other organisations including collaborators, sponsors and clients.

Participate in internal research activities, including seminars, research meetings and continuous professional development activities.

PhD

Where appropriate and agreed, register for and undertake a PhD or other specified research degree.

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

Key working relationships/networks	
Internal	External
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Line Manager/Project Co-Lead/UOL Principal Investigator – Ana Jordan • Project Co-investigator – Alex Oaten • Other project staff based within School of Social and Political Sciences • Head of School • Director of Research Centre • Other academic staff within the School of Social and Political Sciences/UOL 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Lead – Amy Chandler (University of Edinburgh) • Work Package 1 Co-Leads – Lynne Gilmour, Sarah Huque, Hazel Marzetti (University of Edinburgh), Fiona Malpass (Mind in Camden) • Other members of the Discovering Liveability Research Team • Research collaborators, research participants, community-led organisations, the public, stakeholders, and academics as appropriate



**UNIVERSITY OF LINCOLN
PERSON SPECIFICATION**

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Selection Criteria	Essential (E) or Desirable (D)	Where Evidenced Application (A) Interview (I) Presentation (P) References (R)
Qualifications:		
Honours degree in field relevant to research area (1 st , 2:1 Honours Degree or international equivalent) including (but not limited to) social sciences, sociology and/or Masters degree in relevant subject	E	A
English language proficiency as required for admission to study an MPhil/PhD at Lincoln. Further information can be found here: (https://www.lincoln.ac.uk/studywithus/internationalstudents/englishlanguage/requirements/)	E	A/I
Experience:		
Some experience of relevant (qualitative) research methods	E	A/I
Willingness to engage expertise gained through lived/living experience of suicide to lead your research contributions	E	A/I
Experience specific to project/area (e.g., qualitative data collection, ethics, analysis, co-production) and/or of peer work or peer research	D	A/I
Relevant work experience (e.g., research assistant, third sector suicide-related work, government/statutory organisation)	D	A/I
Experience working with third sector and/or community-based organisations (particularly those supporting people experiencing suicidality) and/or of engaging with individuals of diverse backgrounds	D	A/I
Skills and Knowledge:		
Knowledge specific to project/area (e.g. knowledge of critical social science theories, especially (critical) suicide studies; social research methods; co-design/co-production, participatory research methods)	E	A/I
Ability to conduct original research under supervision in the subject area	E	A/I
Excellent written and oral communication skills, including the ability to write reports and research outputs and deliver presentations	E	A/I
Ability to prioritise own workload and work to specified deadlines under pressure	E	A/I
Ability to apply understanding of ethical considerations when working with your own and others' lived experience	E	A/I
Competencies and Personal Attributes:		
Ability to work to deadlines	E	I

Ability to work independently and as part of a team	E	A/I
Enthusiasm and commitment	E	I
Ability to travel for cross-institutional meetings and other research activities such as conference attendance and fieldwork where relevant	E	I
Ability to attend regular meetings and events on University of Lincoln Campuses	E	I

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.

Dimensions

Line manager will be Ana Jordan (Project Co-Lead). The post is funded by the Wellcome-funded Discovering Liveability award, and the post-holder will play a key role in this project.

Author	Ana Jordan	PBP	SP
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