

Candidate Information

Position:	Policy and Impact Officer, Campbell UK and Ireland
School/Department:	School of Social Sciences, Education and Social Work
Reference:	18/106807
Closing Date:	Friday 5 October 2018
Salary:	£27,831 per annum
Duration:	12 Months

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

This post represents an exciting new joint initiative between the Campbell Centre UK and Ireland and the Alliance for Useful Evidence.

Campbell UK & Ireland (<http://www.qub.ac.uk/campbell>) is a national centre of the Campbell Collaboration. The Campbell Collaboration is the leading organisation internationally for evidence synthesis in relation to education, social welfare, crime and justice and international development. Campbell UK & Ireland is hosted by the Centre for Evidence and Social Innovation (CESI) (<http://www.qub.ac.uk/cesi>) at Queen's University Belfast (QUB). CESI is at the forefront of research in Northern Ireland to generate high quality evidence of the impact of social and educational interventions and to promote the better use of such evidence in the development of policy and practice.

Nesta's Alliance for Useful Evidence champions the use of research in social policy and practice. It aims to increase the demand for evidence, as well as improve the supply and application. It achieves its aims through research, training, networking, advice and advocacy. The Alliance is funded by three partners; The Big Lottery Fund, the Economic and Social Research Council, and Nesta.

JOB PURPOSE

Reporting to the Director of Campbell UK & Ireland, the post holder will be responsible for promoting the better and more effective use of evidence in policy and practice in Northern Ireland. They will seek to achieve this through: developing strategic networks and working with a range of policy-makers, practitioners and researchers; supporting the dissemination of evidence; and working to increase the impact of evidence on decision-makers in government and public services in Northern Ireland.

The post holder will be responsible for:

- supporting the increase in the use of evidence in policy and practice in Northern Ireland;
- providing advice to policy makers, practitioners and researchers on the use of evidence in Northern Ireland;
- supporting the production of systematic reviews and other efforts to synthesise and communicate evidence; and
- widening the impact of evidence on decision-makers in government and public services in Northern Ireland.

Please note that this is a fixed term post available for 12 months.

We are willing to work in conjunction with a relevant organisation to offer this post as a secondment.

THE PERSON

- This position will play a key role in helping to promote the better use of evidence in policy and practice amongst a wide range of stakeholders in Northern Ireland.
- The post holder will have considerable experience working in an environment directly concerned with the effective use of high quality evidence to inform policy and practice in education, social care and/or health. S/he will be highly skilled in strategic networking and working effectively with a range of different stakeholders.
- Experience of writing about evidence and policy making, of organising events and contributing to the production of high quality evidence reviews are all extremely desirable.

MAIN ACTIVITIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Developing strategic relationships with key stakeholders in government, public services, voluntary sector and academia in Northern Ireland.
- Actively promoting the work of Campbell UK & Ireland and the Alliance for Useful Evidence.
- Developing strategic partnerships with key stakeholders in Northern Ireland to offer strategic support, advice and training to become more evidence-based.
- Identify and support Evidence Champions to become a vocal champion for evidence among their peers.
- Undertake advocacy activities including:
 - Developing and publicising case studies illustrating evidence made a difference in policy and practice.
 - Contributing thought leadership pieces regularly to relevant blogs or other public discussion forums.
 - Organising Alliance Evidence Masterclasses (to be facilitated by A4UE trainers, but organised by Campbell UK & Ireland).
 - Facilitating seminars or roundtables to encourage participation in the Alliance network from people living in Northern Ireland, and to promote the Alliance and Campbell UK & Ireland.
 - Create plain English evidence summaries, drawing upon Campbell Systematic Reviews.
- Preparing and delivering appropriate marketing and public relations strategies including relevant PR material, publicity documentation and presentation material for internal/external audiences.

PLANNING AND ORGANISING:

- Plan and organise own work to maximise service quality, efficiency and continuity.
- Monitor progress, ensuring agreed strategy, policies and business plans are implemented and meet with professional and quality standards.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- Responsible for planning and overseeing financial resources to ensure projects are appropriately managed, monitored efficiently and effectively and delivered within budget and on time.

INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL RELATIONSHIPS

- Significant and regular contacts with project sponsors (AFUE), key stakeholders including leaders/senior staff in government, and the voluntary and public sectors.
- Significant and regular contacts with colleagues within the Campbell Centre UK and Ireland and the Centre for Evidence and Social Innovation.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA

- A primary degree.
- At least one years' recent relevant experience working in an environment involving direct responsibility for using evidence to inform policy and practice.
- Significant experience working effectively in building and sustaining relationships with a range of stakeholders from government, and voluntary and community sectors.
- An excellent understanding of key issues and developments in relation to evidence-based practice and the 'what works agenda' OR an excellent understanding of systematic reviews.
- Experience of event management.
- Analytical problem-solving ability.
- Ability to analyse information and contribute towards the decision-making process.
- Computer literate in the use of standard Microsoft packages (particularly Excel) and the Internet
- Excellent oral and written communication and negotiation skills, with the ability to give high quality presentations to academic and professional audiences and to advise and build effective working relationships with others.
- Evidence of well-developed planning and organisation capabilities.
- Ability to work independently with a high level of self-motivation, whilst also supporting staff in Institute and other relevant stakeholders.
- Flexibility and ability to work irregular hours on an occasional basis as required.
- Willingness to travel across the UK and Ireland, and occasionally internationally, to support the work of the Campbell Centre.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA

- A postgraduate qualification.

- Experience of writing and publishing blogs, short articles and other opinion-pieces.
- Experience of event management specifically in the area of promoting evidence-based practice.
- Experience of contributing to the production of a systematic review of a standard equivalent to a Campbell Review.