

Candidate Information

Position:	Research Fellow - Community Research Network
School/Department:	QCAP (Queen's Communities and Place)
Reference:	25/112525
Closing Date:	Monday 19 May 2025
Salary:	£39,922 per annum
Anticipated Interview Date:	Thursday 5 June 2025
Duration:	35 Months

JOB PURPOSE:

Located within Queen's Communities and Place (QCAP), applications are invited for a Research Fellow to contribute to the Belfast Community Research and Innovation Network (BCRIN), a collaborative initiative designed to embed research and innovation capacity within community development organisations across inner-city Belfast. The postholder will play a key role in supporting community-led research, participatory knowledge production, and co-design approaches to urban innovation, working closely with local stakeholders.

Additionally, the research fellow will contribute to QCAP's Education, Skills, and Inclusive Innovation (ESII) work programme, particularly the development of an inclusive innovation ecosystem that supports working-class communities in shaping urban innovation projects. The role will involve engagement with resident researchers, community organisations, policymakers, and research stakeholders, ensuring that community voices are central to urban innovation discussions.

The post is full-time and fixed-term for 35 months.

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Conduct research aligned with BCRIN's objectives, supporting community development organisations in becoming 'learning organisations' that can undertake research and apply local data to inform decision-making.
2. Design and implement participatory research methods, ensuring that community voices shape the research process and outcomes.
3. Work closely with resident researchers, providing guidance and support as they undertake research within their communities.
4. Contribute to the tracking and evaluation of BCRIN research impact through data collection, analysis, and reporting.
5. Produce high-quality research outputs, including policy briefings, academic publications, and public-facing reports, ensuring findings are disseminated effectively.
6. Facilitate workshops, seminars, and engagement sessions to enhance knowledge exchange between community organisations, policymakers, and academic stakeholders.
7. Develop and implement capacity-building programmes, supporting community development organisations in acquiring research skills, frameworks, and tools for evidence-based decision-making.
8. Work in partnership with research and innovation stakeholders to support community participation in urban innovation.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. An upper second class honours degree (or equivalent) or a Masters degree in a social science discipline.
2. Have or be about to obtain a PhD in a relevant subject.
3. Experience using qualitative and/or quantitative research methods in applied research settings.
4. Strong understanding of the principles of participatory research, co-design, and community-led methodologies.
5. Ability to communicate research methods and findings effectively to diverse audiences, including students, community groups, and policymakers.
6. Experience in delivering workshops, seminars, or training sessions related to research methods, community development, or urban innovation.

7. Ability to contribute to broader management and administrative processes within a research team, academic unit, or community research initiative.
8. Knowledge of urban innovation, education, place-based research, and/or inclusive innovation frameworks.
9. Ability to design and conduct fieldwork in collaboration with community organisations.
10. Strong skills in data analysis, research synthesis, and policy engagement.
11. Ability to communicate complex information clearly.
12. Evidence of a high standard of report writing skills.
13. Ability to build contacts and participate in internal and external networks.
14. Understanding and respect for diverse community perspectives.
15. Ability to assess and organise resources.
16. Evidence of being able to work flexibly and to meet deadlines.
17. Willingness to work as part of a team.
18. Willingness to travel as required.
19. Current valid driving licence and access to a car or ability to fulfil the mobility requirements of the post.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. Research experience in areas relating to education, community development, inclusive innovation, or participatory research.
2. Experience in multi-stakeholder research collaborations, particularly involving community-academic partnerships.
3. A recognised teaching qualification (e.g., PGCHET) or working towards membership of an appropriate professional body (e.g., HEA Fellowship).
4. Experience in research-led teaching, training, or capacity-building in an academic or community-based setting.
5. Knowledge of community-based education models and their role in addressing educational inequalities.
6. Demonstrable understanding or experience of research practice partnerships (RPPs).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Informal Enquiries to David Piekaar d.piekaar@qub.ac.uk