

## Candidate Information

**Position:** Research Fellow - Engaged Research Lead  
**School/Department:** School of Social Sciences, Education and Social Work  
**Reference:** 25/112727  
**Closing Date:** Monday 4 August 2025  
**Salary:** £51,016 - £62,695 per annum  
**Anticipated Interview Date:** Friday 15 August 2025  
**Duration:** 46 Months

### JOB PURPOSE:

To lead research activities across the Community and the Knowledge Economy Dimension within the Queen's Communities and Place (QCAP) initiative, ensuring successful delivery of the QCAP research, evaluation, and knowledge exchange programme. This role will focus on developing and implementing community-centric research methodologies that contribute to an inclusive knowledge economy, urban innovation, and educational and skills equity .

### MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Lead the Development of Community-Centric Research Models:
  - Design and implement research methodologies that support community participation in education and urban innovation, particularly within disadvantaged communities.
  - Drive the development of an Inclusive Innovation Ecosystem, ensuring that community voices shape the trajectory of urban innovation projects.
2. Manage Strategic Partnerships and Stakeholder Engagement:
  - Collaborate with local, national, and international partners, including academia, industry, and community organisations, to promote transdisciplinary research and policy alignment.
  - Facilitate the creation and management of a Community Research Network, ensuring its growth and sustainability through strategic partnerships.
3. Contribute to Policy and Strategic Frameworks:
  - Influence regional economic policies and local strategic frameworks by providing evidence-based recommendations that promote equitable education and inclusive innovation.
  - Engage in the promotion of community-centric educational pathways and citizen science initiatives to enhance the skills and capacity of local residents.
4. Secure and Manage Research Funding:
  - Develop research proposals and funding bids to secure external funding from diverse sources, including ESRC, EPSRC, and other UKRI bodies.
  - In partnership with communities support proposals and funding bids to secure external funding from diverse sources, e.g. The National Lottery Community Fund, Innovate UK and other funding bodies, to secure funding for communities and contribute to QCAP's research strategy.
  - Ensure effective management of allocated project time and resources, in alignment with the strategic goals of QCAP.
5. Scholarly Activities and Dissemination:
  - Maintain a high-quality publication record, focusing on community-driven research and its implications for urban innovation and educational equity.
  - Present research findings at conferences, community events, and through various media, including podcasts and social media, ensuring accessibility to both academic and lay audiences.

### ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. An upper second class honours degree (or equivalent) or a Masters degree in a social science discipline.
2. PhD in a relevant subject.

3. At least two years' relevant research experience working on a project that relates to education, skills and the knowledge economy.
4. Experience in quantitative and qualitative data analysis, particularly in the context of evaluating educational and social programmes.
5. Good understanding of the key issues and challenges associated with engagement with communities for research studies.
6. Experience of communicating research to lay audiences.
7. Track record in securing and managing research funding.
8. Publication record in education, skills and community research.
9. Provide expert advice on own subject specialism to other staff, students and University Directorates e.g. CESR.
10. Ability to contribute to broader management and administrative processes.
11. Contribute to the QCAP's programme by links with stakeholders such as schools, communities and policy makers.
12. Participation in University –wide projects or working groups linked to engaged community research and inclusive innovation e.g. BRCD.
13. Willingness to undertake additional training in statistics/research methods and other related skills as required.
14. Experience and demonstrable record of applying community-based participatory action research.
15. Ability to communicate complex information clearly.
16. Evidence of a high standard of report writing skills.
17. Ability to build contacts and participate in internal and external networks.
18. Ability to assess and organise resources.
19. Evidence of being able to work flexibly and to meet deadlines.
20. Willingness to work as part of a team.
21. Willingness to travel as required.
22. Current valid driving licence and access to a car or ability to fulfil the mobility requirements of the post.

#### **DESIRABLE CRITERIA:**

1. PGCE.
2. Clear understanding of the research impact agenda.
3. Experience of evaluative research.
4. Experience of designing and delivering a research initiative in partnership with a community.
5. Experience of managing research projects with communities.
6. Experience of co-writing reports to external funders with communities.
7. Experience of successfully organising community and schools focused events and programme.
8. Demonstrated ability to influence policy and strategic frameworks, particularly those related to urban innovation and the knowledge economy.
9. Prior experience of linking with external colleagues and developing networks.
10. Experience of delivering co-designed community-based participatory action research e.g. citizen science programmes.
11. Commitment to community engagement and the principles of equitable education and inclusive innovation.

#### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Informal Enquiries to Niki McKnight: [n.mcknight@qub.ac.uk](mailto:n.mcknight@qub.ac.uk)