

Candidate Information

Position: Research Assistant in Language Trends
School/Department: Research (SSESW)
Reference: 25/113023
Closing Date: Monday 15 December 2025
Salary: £35,136 per annum
Anticipated Interview Date: Monday 19 January 2025
Duration: Available until 31 October 2027

JOB PURPOSE:

To assist in planning, conducting and delivering the research project 'Language Trends England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Republic of Ireland and Wales', funded by the British Council. Language Trends consists of annual surveys of primary and secondary schools, designed to gather information about the situation for language teaching and learning. Its aims are: (i) to assess the impact of policy measures in relation to languages; and, (ii) to analyse strengths and weaknesses based both on quantitative evidence and on views expressed by teachers and sometimes pupils too. There is also a qualitative dimension involving interviewing of key stakeholders.

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Supporting the Principal Investigator and Co-Investigator in carrying out the project.
2. Contributing to all aspects of quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis.
3. Undertaking literature reviews and policy analysis on topics of relevance to the research.
4. Preparing final project reports and presenting same (with support of PI) at high-profile public launch events.
5. Carrying out routine administrative tasks associated with the project. These might include organisation of project meetings and associated documentation and liaising with external stakeholders.
6. Other reasonable requests as allocated by the PI and Co-I of the project.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. An upper second class honours degree (or equivalent) or a Master's degree in Languages and/or Statistics.
2. Demonstrable experience of engaging with research using both quantitative and qualitative research methods.
3. Demonstrable understanding of descriptive statistical analysis.
4. Publication record (which may be in non-academic outputs) commensurate with experience.
5. Comfortable with public speaking.
6. Willingness to undertake additional training in research methods and other related skills as required.
7. Ability to communicate complex information clearly to a non-academic audience.
9. Demonstrable intellectual ability.
10. Ability to assess and organise resources.
11. Evidence of being able to work flexibly and to meet deadlines.
12. Willingness to work as part of a team.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. Prior experience of linking with external colleagues and developing networks.
2. Prior experience of research participant recruitment.
3. Prior experience of managing and analysing large quantitative data sets.
4. Qualification in Irish and/or Welsh language.
5. Publication record commensurate with experience specifically in the field of modern languages education.
6. Evidence of a high standard of report-writing skills.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

