

Candidate Information

Position: Research Fellow (LIFELANGS QUB)
School/Department: School of Social Sciences, Education and Social Work
Reference: 25/113038
Closing Date: Monday 22 December 2025
Salary: £41,519 per annum.
Anticipated Interview Date: Friday 16 January 2026
Duration: 48 months or to 30 September 2029, whichever is soonest.

JOB PURPOSE:

To undertake research in the LIFELANGS Project. This position will contribute to the HEA North South Research Programme project LIFELANGS: Living Observatory of Shared Languages and Identities, reporting to co-PI Dr Aisling O'Boyle based in Queen's University Belfast. LIFELANGS is a joint project, with co-PI Professor Lorna Carson based in Trinity College Dublin. Close intra-institutional collaboration and cross-border mobility is a key feature of the project.

LIFELANGS employs a mixed method approach to study everyday phenomenon of language learning, language use, and the construction and (re)presentation of identities. In addition to four new Post-Doctoral Research Fellows, the project consortium comprises two Co-PIs, a team of eight academic Co-Leads drawn from TCD and QUB, and four PhD student researchers. The Post-Doctoral Research Fellow will report to and work directly with their Co-PI. They will also collaborate with the full project consortium as well as external partners. The LIFELANGS Observatory Post-Doctoral Research Fellows will each work on an identified research stream. Each research stream will have an assigned PhD student researcher, co-supervised by the stream's Post-Doctoral Research Fellow.

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Actively participate as a member of the LIFELANGS research team including leading some of the project research activities in one of the four research streams.
2. Provide co-supervision and mentorship to the research stream's assigned doctoral student.
3. Collect, analyse, write up and disseminate results of research activity.
4. Contribute to the publication of research findings from the project.
5. Develop their own career and reputation.
6. Contribute to the research culture and agenda within the Living Observatory.
7. Under general guidance of the project's Co-Principal Investigators, define research objectives and proposals for own (or joint) research in line with the project's goals.
8. Assist the Co-PIs with project management and admin tasks.
9. Any other duties assigned commensurate to this level of post.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. A PhD in Education, Languages, Linguistics, Applied Linguistics, Identity Studies, Anthropology or cognate discipline (PhD must be awarded by start date of post).
2. Significant relevant experience in planning and delivering research projects or work packages to defined deadlines and standards.
3. Ability to conduct independent, high-quality research, evidenced by peer-reviewed publications, conference presentations, or equivalent outputs commensurate with career stage.
4. Proficiency in relevant qualitative and/or quantitative research methodologies, data analysis techniques, and research tools specific to the LIFELANGS project.
5. Strong academic writing and communication skills, including experience in drafting research papers, reports, or funding applications.

6. Experience of supervision/co-supervision/mentorship of students undertaking research.
7. Experience of communicating research to diverse audiences.
8. Ability to work independently with an agreed workplan.
9. Ability to work in partnership with colleagues as a team.
10. Contribute to the University's outreach programme by maintaining links with external community stakeholders.
11. Good understanding of the key issues and challenges associated with language focused work on the island of Ireland.
12. Good understanding of the opportunities and challenges associated with partnership working within a research environment.
13. Exhibits excellent interpersonal skills, including the ability to influence, negotiate, and engage constructively with diverse individuals and groups.
14. Ability to communicate complex information clearly, including the use of multiple methods of data visualisation.
15. Evidence of a high standard of report writing skills.
16. Ability to build contacts and participate in internal and external networks.
17. Demonstrable intellectual ability.
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. Demonstrate flexibility and resilience in responding to challenges and adapting research approaches in dynamic or changing environments.
22. Willingness to travel.
23. Current valid driving licence and access to a car insured for business purposes.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. Language proficiency qualifications, which evidence competence to read and interpret source materials, and collaborate across linguistic contexts.
2. Experience in planning and delivering language-focused research projects or work packages to defined deadlines and standards.
3. Experience of successfully organising language focused research, networking, and stakeholder events.
4. Experience of delivering high-quality research outcomes by setting clear objectives, planning effectively, executing tasks efficiently, and evaluating the impact of their work.
5. Experience of managing stakeholder advisory groups.
6. Works effectively within teams and contributes to a positive, collegial, and inclusive research environment.
7. Proactively builds relationships with teams and external partners.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Informal queries accepted up until 12 Dec 2025 by m.engman@qub.ac.uk.