



## Candidate Information

<b>Position:</b>	Research Fellow (TransCoLL) (Part-time 0.8FTE)
<b>School/Department:</b>	School of Social Sciences, Education and Social Work
<b>Reference:</b>	26/113166
<b>Closing Date:</b>	Monday 16 March 2026
<b>Salary:</b>	£41,519 per annum, pro rata.
<b>Anticipated Interview Date:</b>	Friday 27 March 2026
<b>Duration:</b>	28 months

### JOB PURPOSE:

The Transforming Cultures of Language-Learning (TransCoLL) project, funded by Arts and Humanities Research Council, aims to intervene in the steep decline in Anglophone language-learning by identifying the elements underpinning successful cultures of language-learning through a comparative analysis of Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, and Ireland. The successful applicant for the Northern Ireland role will normally be based in Belfast, reporting to the jurisdictional lead, and will work across four Work Packages, developing partnerships with schools, project partners and other groups, and using mixed methods to collect and analyse new data and synthesize existing data sets.

The four Work Packages focus on 1) existing data and creates new datasets to explore the differences in language uptake across Celtic education systems; 2) the use of digital language-learning tools, including the development of new innovative software; 3) the attitudes and experiences of students and newly qualified teachers and 4) public stakeholder groups.

The post is a critical role, and as such, successful applicants will have significant responsibilities in independent and team research, planning, day to day project administration, collaborations, and outreach.

### MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Undertake research within the TransCoLL research project.
2. Support the Principal Investigator and Co-Investigator in carrying out the project.
3. Conduct comparative policy analysis related to language education (formal and informal) between Northern Ireland and the other jurisdictions involved in the project (Scotland, Wales and Republic of Ireland).
4. Produce high quality research outputs consistent with project aims and commensurate with career stage. This will include collaborating and co-authoring with PI and project team (as appropriate) on outputs.
5. Identify and access existing data sets, and design and carry out new empirical research using both quantitative and qualitative methods.
6. Analyse data within micro-level, meso-level and macro-level frameworks of language motivation and attitudes at the secondary and tertiary levels.
7. Prepare scholarly outputs and write policy-oriented reports and briefing papers.
8. Present work at international conferences as appropriate.
9. Contribute to public engagement and dissemination (e.g., podcasts and media outreach).
10. Undertake supplementary duties relevant to the success of the project including administrative duties and additional training and development activities as required.

### ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. Have obtained a PhD or have submitted a PhD, or equivalent, in education, applied linguistics, social science or a cognate discipline.
2. Recent relevant experience with quantitative and qualitative research methods, including surveys, interviews, workshop design, corpus or discourse analysis, and statistical techniques of data analysis.
3. Peer-reviewed publication record commensurate with experience.

4. Willing to undertake additional training in research methods and other related skills as required.
5. Able to communicate complex information clearly.
6. Evidence of strong organisational and inter-personal skills.
7. Evidence of excellent academic English and report-writing skills.
8. Evidence of being able to work flexibly and to meet deadlines.
9. Able to deliver both independently and collaboratively as part of a distributed team.
10. Access NI Enhanced Disclosure.
11. Willingness to travel across Ireland and UK.

**DESIRABLE CRITERIA:**

1. Enhanced skills in quantitative research methods. A familiarity with at least one statistical software package or programming language such as R, SPSS, Stata, SAS, or Python.
2. Working knowledge of AI systems and the technical and social challenges this technology poses e.g., large data sets, ethics
3. Experience in policy-related research or engagement with policymakers.
4. Experience in public-facing communication, such as podcasts, blogs, workshops and social media.
5. Demonstrable knowledge of research on language learning motivation and language attitudes/ideologies
6. Familiarity with language and education policy frameworks in Ireland and the UK.
7. Knowledge of Gaelic/Irish/Welsh and proficiency in one international language, other than English.
8. Current driver's licence and access to a car.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Informal Enquiries to Dr Leanne Henderson, email: [Leanne.Henderson@qub.ac.uk](mailto:Leanne.Henderson@qub.ac.uk)