

Job Description

Job title	Research Assistant
School / department	SHSS
Grade	Research Band B
Line manager	Dr Ben Hine – Senior Lecturer in Psychology
Responsible for (direct reports)	Research Assistant
Date of creation or review	10/11/2021

Main purpose of the job

The main purpose of the job role is to assist in delivering a mixed methods funded project by the Woodward Charitable Trust on father's experiences of family breakdown, separation, and divorce (FBSD).

Key areas of responsibility

The key responsibilities include:

- Conducting a literature review
- Organising and conducting interviews with fathers, their children, and those supporting them during Family Breakdown, Separation and Divorce (FBSD)
- Transcribing the interviews
- Thematically analysing the qualitative interviews
- Managing links with third sector providers of support (i.e., charities)
- Gathering quantitative data from said charities
- Entering data onto SPSS
- Cleaning datasets
- Managing dataset storage
- Running statistical analysis under the supervision of the Leading Researcher
- Summarising the main findings

In addition to the above areas of responsibility the post-holder maybe required to undertake any other reasonable duties relating to the broad scope of the position, commensurate with the post, and in support of the University.

Dimensions / background information

This project will explore and understand the nature, context, and impact of family breakdown, separation, and divorce (FBSD) on fathers and their children, particularly in terms of mental health and suicide. It will also explore the experiences and challenges associated with supporting fathers

experienced FBSD. This will occur through the use of interviews with fathers, their children (over 16), and support providers, as well as reviews of existing data sets held by charities supporting fathers involved in family breakdown. Findings from this project will enhance awareness around the impact of FBSD on fathers and children, and will help to ensure that effective support can be provided as the negative physical and mental health outcomes of FBSD for both parents and children manifest (including the increased risk of suicide). In this sense, project findings have the potential to improve (and even save) the lives of fathers and children across the UK.

Person Specification

	Criteria	Essential or Desirable ¹	Demonstrated ²		
			Application	Interview	Test / Exercise
Qualifications and/or membership of prof. bodies	Degree in Psychology or related subject	Essential	X		
Knowledge and experience	Experience in conducting literature reviews	Essential	X		
	Understanding of ethical issues when conducting research in sensitive topic areas	Essential	X	X	
	Knowledge of quantitative and qualitative research methods	Essential	X		
	Experience in conducting research, including data collection and analysis	Essential	X		
	Experience of conducting research in sensitive topic areas	Desirable	X	X	
	Work experience with a charitable body/organisation	Desirable	X		
	Experience of completing systematic review	Desirable	X		
Specific skills to the job	Planning, scheduling, and carrying out Interviewing	Essential	X		
	Non-judgemental attitude	Essential	X	X	
	Experience in using SPSS	Desirable	X		
	Experience in Thematic Analysis	Desirable	X		
	Good academic writing skills	Desirable	X		
	Statistical analysis skills	Desirable	X		

General skills	Reliability	Essential	X		
	Excellent organisational skills	Essential	X		
	Attention to detail	Essential	X		
	Excellent communication skills	Essential	X		
	Critical thinking	Essential	X		
	Ability to work independently	Essential	X		
Other					

Disclosure and Barring Scheme Is a DBS Check required: DBS (This post requires an enhanced DBS check)

Before making a selection, please refer to the University's [Disclosure and Barring Checks Guidance for Staff](#) and [Criminal Convictions, Disclosures and Barring Staff Policy and Procedure](#). If a DBS check is required for the role, a **Check Approval Form** will need to be completed.

¹**Essential Criteria** are those, without which, a candidate would not be able to do the job. Applicants who have not clearly demonstrated in their application that they possess the essential requirements will normally be rejected at the shortlisting stage.

Desirable Criteria are those that would be useful for the post holder to possess and will be considered when more than one applicant meets the essential requirements, to determine which applicants to shortlist.

²**Demonstration:** Select the Recruitment Process stage at which the candidates will have to demonstrate that they meet the criteria. Criteria which have to be demonstrated at application stage should be mentioned in the Recruitment Information Pack as Pre-Selection/Killer Questions, Shortlisting Questions or Shortlisting Criteria. Other criteria should be evaluated and tested at interview stage (e.g. through interview questions) or through additional tests, exercises or presentations. Criteria can (and should) be demonstrated at multiple stages.