

Research Fellow



ROLE DESCRIPTION

GRADE

Grade 5

14 hours per week

LOCATION

Business School -
Centre for Military
Research, Education and
Public Engagement

LINE MANAGER

Dr Gerri Matthews-
Smith

ROLE SUMMARY

We are currently seeking a part time Research Fellow who will support the research team over a 24-month period.

In 2021 the ADES NTO completed the second comprehensive data collection on the numbers and distribution of armed forces children in Scotland. There is a minimum of approximately 12,497 armed forces children enrolled in Scottish local authority schools. According to information published by the Scottish Government in March 2020 this makes armed forces children comparable in numbers to those with a Learning Disability (12,518), and larger than those affected by: looked after status, bereavement, visual and hearing impairment, and others. Combined with the release of overall pupil numbers in state schools by the Scottish Government in March 2022, this information shows that 1.7% of the Scottish primary and secondary school population is attributable to children with an armed forces background.

Working across the Scottish Schools and informed by Armed Forces children and their families, this study will develop a clear pathway to benefit serving and veteran parents and their children with additional support needs, when educationally transitioning to and from Scotland. Empowering policymakers with evidence-based recommendations through identification of enablers and barriers impacting the child's learning journey, wellbeing, and family life, to catalyse whole-system change will investigate.

The study will employ a mixed method phased approach to data collection and analysis allowing for scoping, exploration, and explanation. Using ADES and the NEO 2022 data set as baseline, we will chart with each local authority children with ASL. Account will be taken of the geography of the population – location in Scotland, whether in a base area or elsewhere, noting whether serving or veteran family.

The primary purpose of the role is to assist in fieldwork, as well as manage and process the data collected from the study. The study will employ a mixed methods design, therefore experience of this approach as well as conducting interviews, surveys and focus group discussions are strongly desirable in the successful candidate. A background in child education or child psychology would be an advantage. The post holder will also be expected to contribute to increasing the quality and quantity of research produced by the Military Transitions Research Group (the research team) and to promote its impact on policy and practice.

LINE MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITY FOR:

This role does not have any line management responsibilities currently.

MAIN DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The post-holder will be responsible for collecting data and assisting with managing and processing this. The study will be conducted with a variety of military stakeholders including support services, local councils, teachers and Armed forces families. This will entail recruiting participants, as well as organising and conducting interviews and focus groups.

The Research Fellow will also take a leading role in collecting and organising the data and assist with reporting to the research steering group. The appointed Research Fellow will also be involved in developing publications from the study and in developing further research proposals. More generally, the Research Fellow will play an active and dynamic role in building research capacity and capability across the Business School.

This post requires self-motivation and determination to ensure that the study is delivered successfully. It is an excellent opportunity to work with more senior colleagues and the wider expert community, to develop more skills and to lay the groundwork for further career development in research.

Key Accountabilities:

- Completion of fieldwork working with the Primary Investigator (Dr Gerri Matthews-Smith).
- Assistance with submission bids for research funding.
- Developing good working relationships with members of the research team.
- Making a clear contribution to the research culture by, for example, giving a seminar, teaching a skills workshop, peer reviewing colleagues' research papers or bids or introduce an innovative way of building research capacity or developing impact.

Key Relationships (Internal & External):

- Project Steering Group for the study.
- Participants in the study (military personnel, local council and Government, Armed forces families and others related to military lives).
- Project team.
- Research team.
- Staff members across the school
- Post-graduate students
- Early career researchers
- National and international scholars in areas of research interest

Team Specific:

- To take a leading role in ensuring the successful completion of the study.
- To work collaboratively on publications from the study.
- To work collaboratively on the development and submission of bids for funding.

Generic:

- Contribute to the academic life of Business School.
- To be available to teaching staff in the Faculty and PhD students to advise on specific areas of research expertise.
- Understand and implement policies and guidelines in relation to the administration of the School and University.

Managing Self:

- Manage own time productively.
- Ensure good work/life balance.
- Establish good working relationships with the project team, the wider research team and other members of the Faculty.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

ESSENTIAL

DESIRABLE

EDUCATION / QUALIFICATIONS

- | | ESSENTIAL | DESIRABLE |
|---|-----------|-----------|
| • PhD in a social science or a related social science discipline. | ✓ | |
| • Mental health qualification | ✓ | |
| • Project management | | ✓ |

SKILLS / EXPERIENCE

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| • Experience of recruiting participants to research studies | ✓ | |
| • A strong background in realist evaluation and/or qualitative research methods including interviews, focus groups and qualitative data analysis. | ✓ | |
| • Experience of data collection, in particular, conducting interviews and surveys | ✓ | |
| • Teaching or child psychology background | | ✓ |
| • Able to process and manage data collected during the course of a study, i.e., examples of studies where the applicant has done this. | ✓ | |
| • Able to organise and manage own work | ✓ | |
| • Ability to present research results at group meetings and conferences and communicating complex information effectively, both orally and in writing | ✓ | |
| • Ability to use data analysis software packages such as Nvivo and SPSS | ✓ | |
| • Adhere to, and promote, the University's Equality and Diversity policies. | ✓ | |
| • Ensure compliance with Health & Safety regulations. | ✓ | |
| • Support and promote the University's Sustainability policies and carry out duties in a resource efficient way, recognising the shared responsibility of minimising the university's negative environmental impacts wherever possible. | ✓ | |
| • Experience of mixed methods studies | | ✓ |



	ESSENTIAL	DESIRABLE
• Evidence of having completed own research project.		✓
• Previous publications or recent publication submissions.		✓
• Involvement in a successful application for research funding.		✓
• Familiarity with qualitative research methods		✓
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