

**ACCESS AND ENGAGEMENT
RESEARCHER JOB DESCRIPTION: PRE-
ENTRY SUPPORT AND TRANSITION
INTO HIGHER EDUCATION**

Access and Engagement
16/01/2020

LONDON'S EVENING UNIVERSITY



BIRKBECK ACCESS AND ENGAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

RESEARCH INTO PRE-ENTRY SUPPORT AND TRANSITION INTO HIGHER EDUCATION

The Department is looking for a current Birkbeck PhD candidate to conduct a focus group, transcribe and deliver a report of their findings. This piece of work will support a Departmental review of our activities to ensure that the support on offer to prospective students from groups which are underrepresented in Higher Education is effective and useful.

We are asking all interested candidates to fill out a short application form [here](#) . The deadline for applications is **midnight on Sunday 9th February 2020**.

WHO ARE ACCESS AND ENGAGEMENT?

Some prospective students face barriers to application, progression and success at university due to the impact of structural inequalities.

Access and Engagement advocate for students who face these barriers, providing information, advice and guidance to support them in accessing and succeeding at university. Through our programmes we look to empower our students to navigate both the step into university and the university system once they have begun their studies at Birkbeck.

We work with a range of prospective students but particularly focus on those who have experience of one or more of the following:

- Not currently in education or engaged with formal learning with a five or more year gap between their last experience of formal education
- Who don't have friends or family who have experience of higher education
- Living in low income households (less than £25,000) and/or with parents in non-professional occupations
- With a disability
- Forced Migrants
- Hold non-traditional entry route qualifications and/or have limited or poor prior attainment
- From an ethnic group which is underrepresented either in the student body, in academic teaching staff and/or whose heritage is unrepresented in the university curriculum.

JOB DESCRIPTION

Hourly rate: £18.54 (Level 6)

Expected hours: Applicants would be expected to outline a breakdown of the time they will need to deliver this work in their formal proposal. We would not expect this project to exceed 20 hours.

Essential Skills:

- Current PhD candidate at Birkbeck, University of London
- Experience of conducting qualitative research
- Experience of facilitating focus groups or 1-1 interviews for research purposes

Experience of working with one or more of the groups listed above would be desirable but is not a requirement.

Roles and Responsibilities:

- To formulate a plan for research based on Access and Engagements research needs
- To review focus group attendee list proposed by A&E and make comments about its suitability for research into the proposed topic
- To facilitate a focus group with between 8-15 people invited by Access and Engagement
- To ensure that the focus group is conducted ethically and that participants are able to provide informed consent
- To transcribe discussions and produce a report pulling together key findings
- To outline areas within your findings that may benefit from further research and propose ways in which this research could be conducted.

