

**Post:** Research Officer

**Salary:** £31,000

This is a fixed-term post until 30th September 2023.

## **Introduction to TASO**

The Centre for Transforming Access and Student Outcomes (TASO) aims to improve lives through evidence-based practice in higher education (HE). Our vision is to eliminate equality gaps for disadvantaged and underrepresented groups, allowing all students to have the same chance to enter HE, gain a good degree and progress into further study or employment. TASO is an affiliate What Works Centre and part of the UK Government's What Works Movement.

## **The role**

TASO is seeking a Research Officer for a project which aims to identify and evaluate existing evidence of what is working to support student mental health in the English higher education sector. [TASO is the lead partner in a consortium that has been commissioned by the Office for Students](#) to deliver a cross-cutting project to gather and mobilise evidence of effective mental health practices in higher education to improve student outcomes.

The post holder will act as a researcher on the project, providing support to the project's Senior Research Officer. The role will involve both quantitative and qualitative research, with particular responsibility for data collection and analysis. With six consortium partners working together on the project, the postholder will also need to be organised and collaborative in order to ensure the effective delivery of the project.

## **Main duties and responsibilities**

- Provide support to the Senior Research Officer to ensure successful project delivery.
- Provide administrative support to the Consortium partners.
- Support the design of data collection tools and methods, carry out data collection.
- Carry out desk-based research
- Conduct qualitative interviews (primarily with those working on mental health in the HE sector)
- Collaborate actively within and outside the organisation, through regular consortium meetings and by managing communications among partners.
- Produce progress reports to the Senior Research Officer and other members of the team.
- Build internal and external contacts and networks for the exchange of information.

This job description summarises the main duties and accountabilities of the post and is not comprehensive; the post-holder may be required to undertake other duties of similar level and responsibility.

## **Person specification**

### *Essential*

- Educated to degree level, or equivalent experience.
- Knowledge of the higher education sector in England.
- Experience of designing data collection tools, carrying out field work and analysing results.

- Experience of conducting desk-based research.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills, able to write reports and present research findings to a range of audiences.
- Excellent interpersonal skills with the ability to liaise with peers, colleagues and students.
- Able to manage research and administrative activities, and to balance competing pressures of research and administrative demands and deadlines.
- Able to build contacts and participate in internal and external meetings and networks for the exchange of information and collaboration.
- Experience of contributing to collaborative decision making.

### **Informal Enquiries**

Before submitting an application you may wish to discuss the post further by contacting Dr Helen Lawson, Research Programmes Manager, via email: [Helen.Lawson@taso.org.uk](mailto:Helen.Lawson@taso.org.uk)

### **Initial Terms and Conditions of Appointment**

- Remuneration: - £31,000
- Location: Central London. This post will be hybrid with the expectation that the post holder will be in the office two days a week. Candidates must have the right to work in the UK.
- Hours: Full time
- Holiday: 27 days per year, plus public/bank holidays.
- Pension: Employer contribution 8%
- Term: Fixed term, to 30th September 2023.

TASO is a learning organisation which is committed to promoting and enabling our team in their training and development.

This role reports to the Senior Research Officer

### **How to apply**

To apply, please send a CV and supporting statement (maximum 2 A4 pages) outlining clearly how you meet the above criteria to [info@taso.org.uk](mailto:info@taso.org.uk), citing "Research Officer" in the Subject of the email.

**Deadline for applications:** Midday on 27th June 2022.

**Interviews are expected to be held week beginning 7th July.**