

Candidate Brief

Research Manager

Fixed-term contract [6 months]

About TASO

The Centre for Transforming Access and Student Outcomes (TASO) is an affiliate What Works Centre, and part of the UK Government's What Works Movement. Our vision is to eliminate equality gaps in higher education (HE). Our mission is to improve lives through evidence-informed practice.

TASO was set up in 2019 within King's College London and became an independent charity on 1 April 2021. Our work focuses on the generation, synthesis and dissemination of high-quality evidence about effective practice in widening participation and student outcomes. We primarily focus on developing and disseminating causal evidence (categorised as type 3 in the Office for Students' Standard of Evidence).

The Role

TASO is looking to recruit a Research Manager (on a fixed term 6 month contract) to join our Research and Evaluation (R&E) team. The post-holder will be responsible for managing multiple research projects, including large-scale quantitative field research.

Responsibilities include:

- Managing specific research projects (e.g. Learning Analytics field trial), ensuring adherence to all ethical and data protection requirements.
- Scoping and designing new research projects in collaboration with higher education providers as part of commissioning rounds.
- Managing junior colleagues to help deliver research projects, providing in-role development of appropriate research skills and other competencies.
- Producing and quality assuring research reports for publication.
- Planning and delivering a programme of research dissemination and stakeholder engagement events, with the Deputy Director and Communications Manager.
- Providing verbal and written reports into TASO's governance and advisory groups.
- Quality assuring analysis and evaluation plans [depending on the skills of the role-holder].

The attributes we are looking for in a Research Manager

Applicants will be expected to demonstrate their skills and experience against the following criteria in their written application and at interview, for those shortlisted.

Knowledge and Experience

- Managing research projects, including scoping, planning, delivering and reporting.
- Strong quantitative and/or qualitative research skills.
- Synthesising complex information into formats that are useful to a wide range of stakeholders including senior managers, practitioners and the lay public.
- Awareness of data protection and ethical requirements for research and evaluation.
- Understanding of widening participation and student success agendas.

Skills and abilities

- An ability to make analytical decisions independently and rapidly, and to consult with experts or more senior colleagues when needed.
- Confident and clear written and verbal communication, and the ability to review and edit others' work in line with organisational style.
- Ability to balance competing, shifting priorities on behalf of a small team under pressure of deadlines and workload.

Values

- Commitment to eliminating equality gaps in higher education; a passion for the agenda of What Works Centres and the broader agenda around evidence-based policy and practice in public services.
- Driven, with a personal style that supports the achievement of team goals – a natural collaborator, networker and convener who makes connections and brings others together.

Initial Terms and Conditions of Appointment

- Remuneration: Starting from £39,000 per year
- Location: Flexible hybrid working. Candidates must have the right to work in the UK.
- Term: 6 month fixed term contract. **We welcome responses from either full-time or part-time applicants. We will also consider candidates who have a preference to work freelance or more flexibly (e.g. alongside a PhD).**
- Holiday: 27 days plus public/bank holidays pro rata

- Pension: Employer contribution 8%

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, citing “Research Manager” in the subject line of the email.

Deadline for applications: 10am on August 2nd 2022