

Postdoctoral Research Fellow Roles Call Description

Last updated: 16th March 2022

The Disability Under Siege Network is making funds available to support 3 Early Career Postdoctoral Research Fellowships. The 3 fellowship roles will support interdisciplinary research into the areas identified by the Disability Under Siege Network.

Call Opening Date: 18th March 2022

Call Closing Date: 22nd May 2022

Online Information Event: 24th March 2022, 10am-11am (UK Time)

Candidates Notified: June 2022

For more information, please visit www.disabilityundersiege.org



1 Background

Disability Under Siege is a Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) Network Plus programme, funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), UK. It is a co-created programme bringing together a community of researchers, educational practitioners, cultural institutions, advocacy organisations and disability led groups in the UK and Middle East. The Network aims to contribute to research efforts by providing intellectual and logistical resources that local practitioners need to transform education provision for children with disabilities in conflict-affected countries.

The Disability Under Siege Network has the following aims:

1. Re-shape public understanding of disability in contexts of conflict and crisis;
2. Support research and evidence building to change public policies and practices regarding disability inclusion in education;
3. Foster and support cultural events as a means to further research and evidence building to highlight priorities around disability inclusion in education;
4. Enhance local, regional and international capacity to address issues of access, quality and participation in education for those with disabilities in formal and non-formal educational settings;
5. Legacy-building through the coordination and integration of outputs from the programme and scaling/transferring findings to other relevant global contexts.

Our research partners include Birzeit University (Palestine), Birmingham City University (UK), Islamic University of Gaza (Palestine), and the Centre for Lebanese Studies at the Lebanese American University (Lebanon), which bring complementary expertise in the fields of education under occupation, inclusion, public health and social action, arts and culture, disability and social justice.

2 Call Description

In support of our stated aims, the Disability Under Siege Network is making funds available to support up to 3 Postdoctoral Research Fellow roles .

2.1 Postdoctoral Role Research Focus

The Disability Under Siege Network have identified a number of research gaps and challenges through literature reviews carried out by the Disability Under Siege Co-I country teams in 2021. We would particularly welcome interdisciplinary research proposals for a clearly delineated scope of work that can be achieved within a 1-year time frame around the following themes:

- i) Understanding constructions of disability arising from armed violence, including its gendered nature, age and legal status;
- ii) Disability as a social movement, including a range of actors, including disability led organisations, arts and cultural formal and non-formal sectors, education - formal and non-formal education sectors, the politics of international organisations and funding priorities;



- iii) Methodological developments with respect to improving systems for state / ministry / school level data collection and disaggregation by disability, gender, legal status and other demographic intersections; methodological developments for 'measuring' disability'; problematizing the 'measurement' of disability and debates pertaining to internationally recognized measures;
- iv) Attitudes to and constructions of intellectual/cognitive disabilities held by those with disabilities, families, communities, service providers, policymakers; life outcomes with regards to health and well-being, leisure, education, employment etc;
- v) Politics of production of knowledge on disability, decolonization of disability, mapping of sources of knowledge of disability in academic research, social movements, communities, policy-makers, international organisations, social and cultural practices (film, social media, narratives, theatre, music, graffiti, street performance) etc;
- vi) Disability, arts and digital methodologies, and applications for pedagogy and curriculum in inclusive education.

2.2 Application Eligibility Criteria

Applications can be made by a research organisation (e.g. a University, Research Institute, NGO, school, community group social enterprise, arts or cultural organisation) who can host the proposed candidate to participant in the programme. The research organisation must have the capacity to provide the necessary ethical, administrative and safeguarding infrastructure to support the research candidate's delivery of their role as outlined below.

We are seeking applications for post-doctoral research candidates who meet the following criteria:

- Higher degree (e.g.: PhD completed or close to completion) relevant to research area (disability) or equivalent qualifications or experience
- Research background in disability, education or related field
- Ability to undertake field research in Jordan, Lebanon or occupied Palestinian Territories
- Preferably Arabic language skills
- Strong methodological skills, whether quantitative or qualitative methodologies; interest in interdisciplinary and innovative research methods
- Ability to communicate complex information clearly and to a wide range of audiences
- Commitment to engaging with non-academic partners and to achieving research impact
- Commitment to co-production and involvement of users in research
- Understanding of and ability to contribute to the planning and organising of the research project
- Ability to work independently and also to work as a member of a team, co-ordinating own work with others to avoid conflict or duplication of effort

2.3 Role Affiliation

Successful applicant institutions will enter into a Grant Agreement with the Disability Under Siege Network to receive the agreed funds to support the candidate named in the application.



Successful Post-Doctoral candidates will be hosted by the applying institution but has the option to be affiliated to the University of Birmingham and can receive mentoring and support from Disability Under Siege partners to deliver on the role as outlined below.

3 Postdoctoral Researcher Role Description

The successful applicant will be expected to undertake the following tasks:

- Develop research objectives and proposals for own or joint research, with assistance of a mentor if required
- Apply knowledge in a way which develops new intellectual understanding
- Disseminate research findings for publication, research seminars etc
- Provide advice and guidance to PhD students where appropriate to the discipline
- Contribute to developing new models, techniques and methods
- Undertake management/administration arising from research
- Contribute to Departmental/School research-related activities and research-related administration
- Collect research data; this may be through a variety of research methods, such as scientific experimentation, literature reviews, and research interviews *
- Present research outputs, including drafting academic publications or parts thereof, for example at seminars and as posters
- Provide guidance, as required, to support staff and any students who may be assisting with the research
- Contribute to writing bids for research funding
- Promotes equality and values diversity acting as a role model and fostering an inclusive working culture.

3.1 What support will be provided?

Up to 3 grants of £40,000 will be made available to support the salary and overhead costs associated with employing the candidate.

There will be opportunities to apply for additional funding to support travel and expenses for activities that are identified during the course of the fellowship.

Mentors will be matched by country of focus, and/or fields of interest to support the postdoctoral fellow throughout the period of the fellowship. Meetings will be held on a regular mutually determined basis. The mentor will advise of the research, writing for publication and future career development.

4 Application Process

4.1 How to apply

To apply, please complete the Application Form that can be found at www.disabilityundersiege.org and submit disabilityundersiege@contacts.bham.ac.uk:

4.2 Timeline for applications

1. Applications Open - 18th March



2. Information Event - 24th March
3. Applications Close - 22nd May
4. Applicants notified of outcome in June 2022

5 Assessment Process

Full details of the assessment process can be found in the Postdoctoral Researcher Assessment Process Document at www.disabilityundersiege.org

5.1 Assessment Criteria

Applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

Candidate's research excellence and leadership in the research domain:

- Demonstrated capacity for research excellence based on track record as defined by the quality of the applicant's research contribution; and
- Demonstrated capacity for leadership in the research domain as defined by the sphere of influence achieved to date by the applicant.

Quality of candidate's proposed research programme:

- Potential of the proposed research programme, executed within the Disability Under Siege Programme to position the applicant to have significant impact through a research-intensive career.

Demonstrated synergy between candidate and Disability Under Siege Networks' areas of focus:

- Demonstrated alignment and synergy between the applicant's research ambitions and the potential for the Disability Under Siege Network to benefit strategically from engaging with the applicant.

5.2 Assessment Process

When you have submitted your application, it will be assessed through the following process:

1. Review of eligibility criteria
2. Assessment Panel review and ranking
3. Candidate online interview
4. Administrative due diligence process

All candidates will be informed following the Assessment Panel review if they have been successful or unsuccessful in being invited to interview.

6 Support

6.1 Where can I get support with my application?

The Disability under Siege Network will help to facilitate your application. Whilst we cannot make comments on the academic content of your submission, we can offer assistance about the practical elements such as budgets, formatting and Arabic translation. If you have any questions when completing your application, please email disabilityundersiege@contacts.bham.ac.uk where we can assist you.



In addition, the Disability Under Siege team will be hosting an information session on 24th March 2022 for prospective applicants to support with application development.

All our documents and further information about the Disability under Siege Network can be found on the [Disability Under Siege website](#).