

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH COUNCIL AND SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE PLACEMENT FELLOWSHIP SCHEME

Partner Organisations

**Applied Educational Research Scheme, Scotland
Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education, Scotland
Scottish Executive Analytical Services (Education and Lifelong Learning)
ESRC Teaching and Learning Research Programme**

Call for applications

The SE and HMIE Placement on Schools Focussed Research

A significant opportunity has arisen for two academics to be placed in Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) and the Scottish Executive (SE) during academic year 2007/08. The purpose of such placements would be to foster the exchange of knowledge between research communities and the host organisations and to further existing links between these partners. Such placements would be the subject of an application to the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and Scottish Executive (SE) Placement Fellowship Scheme. This scheme offers academics the chance to play a major role in developing the relationship between research, policy and practice communities and to develop their career in a unique manner.

There are two joint Placements proposed: both based at the SE and HMIE, and both largely but not exclusively focused on school based education. This Call is for individuals to apply for these roles.

These two joint Placements will take place in Academic Year 2007/08 with one to start as soon as possible and the other to start in approximately 6 months time (timings and start dates are flexible).

Aims and objectives

The objectives of the time with HMIE are:

- To work with the managers of HMIE tasks to ensure that the design of each task and the preparation of its task team are fully informed by relevant recent research findings, by producing accessible summaries and otherwise.
- To contribute to the development and implementation of recently formulated proposals to enhance HMIE's capitalisation upon research findings as part of its ongoing work.
- To contribute to the enhancement of HMIE's capacity to provide advice on Scottish Executive, and other, research proposals and projects

The Objectives of the time with the SE are:

- To review the research of TLRP, AERS and other research teams relevant to current policy concerns
- To synthesise such findings, producing accessible summaries for both policy and academic audiences
- To contribute to discussions of the implications of research findings for policy and practice
- To contribute to the development of the research culture within the SE

In fulfilling these Objectives the successful candidates will have access to the completed and ongoing research of both TLRP and AERS although the work would certainly not be restricted to this corpus. In addition to the support of staff in the host organisations the successful candidates would have the support of TLRP and AERS staff and would be expected to liaise with colleagues holding similar posts in Scottish organisations. For example, AERS has recently appointed an HMI from OFSTED and Estyn as Senior Research and Knowledge Transfer Fellow (adela.baird@ed.ac.uk).

Funding is available for two candidates for a full-time six month placement each split 50:50 between the SE and HMIE subject to the application to ESRC by the candidate identified by this Call being successful. The precise details of the proportion of time and its phasing would be negotiated with the successful candidate subject to the SE's requirements and to HMIE's planning cycle. Time required to maintain a limited amount of existing commitments can be negotiated. The Placement would be based at split locations at HMIE's offices in Livingston (with travel to offices in Glasgow, Edinburgh and Dundee required) and at the SE at Victoria Quay, Edinburgh. Some travel to other locations might be required.

Person Specification

The ESRC Scheme is aimed at early to mid career researchers with post PhD experience or equivalent. The Scheme allows for a more senior person to be appointed. Potential applicants are encouraged to contact the Scottish Executive to discuss their interest in these opportunities; and also to find out more about how this may fit with their career progression. In the first instance they should contact Audrey.MacDougall@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

The successful candidate will show strong evidence of:

1. A successful, and developing, research career;
2. Commitment to the values of inclusivity and excellence as laid out in the documents of the Partner organisations;
3. Knowledge of educational policy processes and quality assurance systems;
4. Commitment to knowledge exchange through critical dialogue with relevant parties;
5. A clear view of the strategic gains (personal; institutional and system wide) which this opportunity offers;
6. A high level of interpersonal skill and self organisation.

Applications

For an application form for either of these positions contact lesley.lilley@esrc.ac.uk or by telephone on 01793 413033.

The Partner Organisations

The Teaching and Learning Research Programme (www.tlrp.org) is the largest programme of research into education across the lifecourse which has been funded in the UK. It started in 1999 and currently it is expected to extend to 2012 with further work under active consideration. It has investments totalling some £40m with several hundred researchers in British HEIs active at any one time. A key feature of TLRP is engagement with users in all phases of the research process. This placement opportunity has emerged from ongoing discussions with the partner organisations in the devolved administration about how TLRP (and other) research might best benefit Scottish education. In these discussions TLRP has also collaborated with the Applied Educational Research Scheme in Scotland (AERS) and a major Conference was held in Glasgow in November 2006 to further dialogue between research and user communities. This Call emerges from these ongoing initiatives. The TLRP contact for this Call is Andrew Pollard (a.pollard@ioe.ac.uk) .

The Applied Educational Research Scheme (www.aers.ac.uk) is an initiative funded for five years from 2004 by a collaboration between the Scottish Executive Education and Lifelong Learning Department (SEELLD) and the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) which funds both Further and Higher Education. AERS aims both to improve the capacity for high quality research into Scottish schools and to contribute such research in support educational policy, particularly the National Priorities in Education articulated after an unprecedented public consultation by the newly established Scottish Parliament (<http://www.nationalpriorities.org.uk/>). AERS consists of three substantive Research Networks (Learners, Learning and Teaching; Schools, Management and Governance; Schools and Social Capital) supported by a Research Capacity Building Network. AERS has a particular remit for the lowest attaining 20% of pupils in Scottish schools. The AERS contact for this call is Stephen Baron (s.baron@strath.ac.uk) .

Scottish Executive Analytical Services (Education and Lifelong Learning) (<http://www.scotland.gov.uk>) provide analytical services for the family of recently formed directorates which has wide ranging responsibilities for children's services and education across the lifecourse as well as responsibility for social work. These directorates support the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning and the Ministerial portfolios for Children & Early Years and Schools & Skills. There is a major focus on the integration of policies and of services for young people with, for example, the Social Work Inspection Agency being linked to Children and Early Years. In the school based area of work the Schools Directorate is currently seeking to restructure the Scottish curriculum through a participatory process involving schools or groups of schools taking responsibility for particular areas for development (<http://www.acurriculumforexcellencescotland.gov.uk/>). In the field of Higher Education, the Lifelong Learning Directorate is concerned to widen participation for groups and communities which have traditionally not progressed to advanced studies. The Analytical Services Division covering early years children and

schools policy is headed by Bill Maxwell (Bill.Maxwell@scotland.gsi.gov.uk) where both placements would be co-hosted with Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE).

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (<http://www.hmie.gov.uk/>) is an Executive Agency of the Scottish Executive which aims to promote and contribute to improvements in standards, quality and achievements for all across much of the Scottish education system. HMIE has, since 1996, had a distinctive approach to inspection through partnership with school, education authorities and others and the consequent combination of internal, self evaluation and external inspection. A decade of this process resulted in the publication of the first, whole system commentary, *Improving Scottish Education* (<http://www.hmie.gov.uk/ise/default.asp>), and the concomitant update of the comprehensive guide to good practice and self evaluation <http://www.hmie.gov.uk/hgios/hgios.asp>. HMIE is committed to increasing its engagement with research and to instituting new systems to enhance its capitalisation on research. The Placements would be co-hosted by HMIE to help plan and institute such systems. The contact in HMIE is Wray Bodys (Wray.Bodys@hmie.gsi.gov.uk).