

Programme Director: Youth Futures

Closing Date for Applications: 11 December 2019

Summary

1. The British Academy is seeking to appoint a Programme Director to engage with a multi-year programme on *Youth Futures*, supported through the UK Government's [Global Challenges Research Fund](#).
2. The closing date for applications is 11 December 2019, with an anticipated start date of 20 March 2020. Applications should be sent to Dr Stephanie Appleton at s.appleton@thebritishacademy.ac.uk.
3. Funding of up to £160,000 and up to 24 months in duration is available.

The Role of the Programme Director

4. The *Youth Futures* programme will fund approximately 18 research projects with development impact, aimed at furthering existing understanding of youth futures and informing policymaking in this area. The research grants will be awarded to interdisciplinary teams of UK and international researchers, following an open competition. It is expected that the projects will fully involve young people in the delivery of outputs and empower them to contribute towards the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
5. The Academy wishes for the Programme Director to engage with the award-holders and wider audiences to ensure coherence across outputs, synthesise research and policy-relevant findings, promote their effective uptake and use, and develop programme-level engagements with key stakeholders. It is expected that the Programme Director will help to establish youth-led advisory functions for the programme, for example.
6. The successful candidate will have an excellent understanding of the topic, and of how to maximise uptake of research findings by policymakers and other non-academic audiences. The Programme Director will work closely with the research teams supported under this programme and report to the British Academy.
7. The Programme Director will:
 - a. Ensure that the implementation, outputs and outcomes of the programme reflect the vision set out in the business case.
 - b. Provide advice on the implementation of the programme.
 - c. Synthesise, communicate and disseminate key research findings to relevant audiences.
 - d. Facilitate partnerships and connections between research groups and policymakers/other stakeholders.
 - e. Identify opportunities to help enhance research uptake and impact.

- f. Lead on at least one special edition of the British Academy Journal.

Duration and Funds Available

8. Applicants to the post of Programme Director should apply for a grant of up to 24-months in duration, starting on 20 March 2020. Eligible costs are salary costs, justified travel and subsistence, and teaching replacement costs to the UK host institution. Funding of up to £160,000 is available for the duration of the contract. Value for money should be clearly demonstrated in the application.

Person Specification

9. We are seeking to appoint an outstanding researcher who has an established and distinguished track record of publication in a relevant field and who is, therefore, likely to have completed his/her doctorate not less than 10 years ago, or to have a similar length of equivalent research experience. The Programme Director should be able to work and communicate effectively with a range of stakeholders, including academic researchers, businesses, policymakers and practitioners. The role is suited to someone who is particularly interested in operationally relevant research and in energising innovative collaborations between researchers and young people.
10. It is anticipated that the research grant will cover all or part of the Programme Director's salary and replacement teaching costs, and that s/he will be currently employed at a UK university or other UK institution of higher education. The proposed amount of time to be spent on the *Youth Futures* programme needs to be fully explained and justified. The appointed Programme Director cannot be part of any research award made under the programme. Essential criteria are:
 - a. In-depth knowledge and expertise in relevant subject areas, and significant prior experience working with young people.
 - b. High esteem and standing, including well-developed networks, within relevant research and policy communities.
 - c. A significant track record of publication.
 - d. A track record of effective communication to a wide range of audiences.
 - e. A strategic understanding of the environment in which the programme operates (including understanding of ODA-funded research).

The Content of the Programme

11. The British Academy's *Youth Futures* programme seeks to support excellent, policy-oriented research, aimed at addressing the [UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) and advancing the [UK's Aid Strategy](#). It seeks to encourage collaborative work that extends beyond the standard research model, and policy thinking based on close understanding of, and working with, young people. It also seeks to:
 - Provide new understandings of youth expectations and youth involvement in work that are broader and more nuanced than current thinking and interventions;
 - Identify the contributions young people make and could make to policy development and their perspectives on how to build purposeful lives;
 - Develop ways of collaborating in cross-disciplinary ways, and in partnership with young people and local partners;
 - Link research and evidence involving and driven by young people with policymakers to shape future interventions and approaches.

12. Through equitable partnerships with researchers and institutions overseas, including in the Global South, the programme will support projects which address one or more of the following sub-themes:
 - a) *Creativity*: Understanding youth creativity and flexibility to identify imaginative solutions in developing countries that are effective and foster a sense of ownership by young people. The scope can be wide, but could include attention to how to amplify the voice of young people locally, nationally and globally; how to foster intergenerational and institutional trust; how to develop new approaches to the green and low waste economy at a local level; the pathways that young people take and how policies affect them including the gap between policy, communities of interest, collective action and practice; how young people experience, and have experienced, change; or how to identify imaginative solutions to mitigate climate change.
 - b) *Categories*: The UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development states that people who are vulnerable, such as young people, must be empowered. Youth populations experience a combination of lack of economic opportunities (especially when combined with educational attainment, and concomitant expectations), lack of political voice and a sense of relative deprivation. The Academy would like to support projects that bring young people into the process of determining and setting the categorisations and concepts by which they view themselves and others, and how these foster their motivations, actions and aspirations. For example, this could include reconceptualising terms such as informality, inequality, mobility, resilience, identity, class, vulnerability and precarity from a youth perspective.
 - c) *Livelihood & Work*: The meanings and manifestations of livelihood and work for and by young people in different settings on the ground are critical for our understanding of young people's ambitions and expectations. The Academy is keen to encourage applications that focus on the practices and narratives of youth livelihoods and work (including unpaid domestic work) and provide a voice for young people to express their own perspectives. The changing attitudes of young people towards livelihood and work, particularly in our changing environment, are vital for illustrating how young people are and will live their lives and how society as a whole can be developed to support and integrate effectively the next generation.

Application Process

13. Applicants to the post of Programme Director are asked to provide a *justification* (not exceeding two sides of A4) explaining why they consider themselves particularly well suited to the role of Programme Director, drawing attention to their expertise, knowledge and experience.
14. Applicants should provide a *CV* which should include relevant and recent publications. It should also include contact details, qualifications (including class and subject), academic and professional posts held, and a record of grants and external contracts awarded. The CV should not exceed four sides of A4.
15. Applicants should also provide a *proposal* (no more than four sides of A4) outlining their plans and approach towards ensuring the success of the *Youth Futures* programme.
16. The head of department at your host institution must complete a *statement in support* of the application (maximum of two sides of A4).
17. Applicants should provide a one-page A4 *statement* outlining the costs and resources required.

18. Applicants should provide details of two *referees*, one academic and the other a practitioner.

Assessment Process

19. Applications will be assessed against the following:
- Person specification
 - Plans and approach outlined in the proposal
 - Understanding of the programme and its requirements
 - Value for money
20. Shortlisted applicants should be available for interview on 8 January 2020 where they will be required to make a formal presentation followed by responses to questions.

Timetable

Programme Director call launched	W/c 4 November 2019
Closing date for applications	Midnight on 11 December 2019
Interviews	8 January 2020
Decision announced	W/c 27 January 2020
Programme Director start date	20 March 2020
Programme Director end date	No later than 31 March 2022

Further information

21. Further information is available from Dr Stephanie Appleton at s.appleton@thebritishacademy.ac.uk.