

# Job description: Field team/ sessional researchers

Social Life was set up in 2012. Our mission is to reconnect placemaking with the everyday experience of people and neighbourhoods. We work with communities, built environment professionals, public agencies and central and local government, putting people and social need at the heart of the way cities, towns and new developments are planned, developed and managed.

**We are now recruiting two or three experienced and capable researchers to join our field team.**

**This is being offered on a freelance contract as and when work is available. The number of days is unpredictable, and we take account of our researchers' other commitments. The work may be at weekends or in the evening, as well as throughout the week.**

**We are very interested in receiving applications from people who live in the places we are working, and from people from black and ethnic minority communities as they are currently underrepresented in our team.**

**We have projects over the summer in Southwark, Harlesden and possibly other areas. We will be able to offer several days a week of fieldwork for each researcher in late March to April in Central London.**

**We need fieldworkers to carry out interviews out and about in public places.** We believe that the best way to engage people in research is to go to places where they are comfortable and where they go in their everyday lives - this could be outside a supermarket, in the street on the way to work, at a festival, in a community centre or waiting outside the school gates.

**The job will include:**

- Carrying out street interviews and pop-up focus groups in different locations
- Speaking to people from a variety of different backgrounds
- Writing up findings in a given format
- Working with Social Life staff or other field team members cooperatively and supportively.

**We are looking for people with:**

- Demonstrable confidence and skills in speaking to people from different backgrounds, comfortable approaching people in the street and able to quickly gain their trust
- Experience of carrying out research with residents or service users in similar settings
- The ability to deal with challenging situations, to diffuse conflict and to understand how to manage the potential risks of this type of work
- Experience of living in a diverse urban community, and empathy for the experience of people whose communities are rapidly changing
- Ability to use Microsoft Office (Excel and Word)
- *Desirable:* experience of in depth qualitative research or ethnography
- *Desirable:* as well as fluent English, good spoken ability in another community language.

**We can offer:**

- training in street interviewing for all field team members, and potentially in other research methods as is needed on different projects
- an opportunity to develop your skills and experience in urban social research and community engagements as part of a friendly supportive team
- the opportunity to become involved in projects where you will need to expand your skills (for example to other research methods)
- £160.00 per day minimum (more for more complex projects) plus lunch, plus travel expenses for work outside of central London.

**February 2024**