

Researcher application process

February 2023

Thank you for your interest in our researcher vacancies.

The job description is below. Please read this thoroughly as we will be assessing applications against this.

To apply

1 Complete the [application form](#). It asks for examples of your skills and experience against the criteria set out in the job description.

Please give us examples of how you meet the criteria, answer the questions fully but please be succinct.

Some of the questions are about the *desirable criteria*, leave these blank if you cannot answer these. We are not expecting anyone to be able to meet all of these, and you can still be an excellent applicant without meeting any of them.

2 Fill in the [monitoring form](#). This helps us understand who is applying, who we shortlist and how people hear about the job.

3 Send us your CV, to hello@social-life.co

This is a blind recruitment process up to shortlisting. We will only look at CVs of people who we shortlist.

To allow us to can match application forms, monitoring information, and CVs we need you to give us your initials and the day and month of birth on the forms. (So for example if you were called Chris Jones and you were born on 4th May you would put CJ and 0405). Can you please put your name and initials clearly on the email you send with your CV.

If you need help with this process please email hello@social.life.co

The deadline for applications is midday on Monday February 27th.

GOOD LUCK!



Job description: Researcher

February 2023

Social Life is a social enterprise, set up in 2012 by the Young Foundation.

Our aim is to reconnect placemaking with the everyday experience of people and neighbourhoods. We work with local authorities, housing associations, developers and community groups, putting people's lived experience at the heart of the way cities, towns and new developments are planned, developed and managed.

What we do?

- We carry out research in local communities to understand their strengths and challenges and develop recommendations for practical action
- We use research to assess the impact of development, regeneration or other interventions, and create frameworks to understand and measure change
- We get involved in practical projects that engage people in different ways of shaping their neighbourhoods, collaboratively and creatively
- We experiment with mapping and other ways of visualising the insights that we generate.

We are looking for two energetic, creative and efficient researchers with a strong commitment to the type of work we do:

- **one researcher** with broad research experience, including qualitative and quantitative research
- **one researcher** with an urban design/architecture background
- experience of participatory and collaborative working with local communities and of working on area regeneration schemes would be welcome for either post.

Given current uncertainties, these jobs are being offered on six-month contracts, we hope to be able to extend this after the first period. The posts will be based at Social Life's offices in Elephant & Castle, some home-working will be possible but office working will be expected at least two days a week. We are happy to consider flexible working arrangements, with a minimum of 21 hours a week (3 days).

We are very interested in applications from **people who have lived experience of areas going through change**, and from people from **black and minoritised communities** as they are currently underrepresented in our team.

The job will include:

- working on a range of research projects, including developing research materials, coordinating and carrying out research activities such as street interviews, stakeholder interviews and focus groups, and data analysis
- carrying out participatory and collaborative activities with communities, working with the team to facilitate workshops and events to bring everyday experience into the process of planning, designing and managing local areas
- contributing to reports, written documents, websites and digital media
- project managing and taking responsibility for small projects and initiatives
- alongside the wider team, taking part in the day to day management and administration of the office.

We are looking for people with:

- a good understanding of Social Life's work and what motivates us
- knowledge of UK planning, urbanism and urban design, architecture, housing, the community sector, regeneration, new housing development or another related field of Social Life's work
- qualitative research experience
- experience of project management
- excellent written and verbal communication skills
- excellent MS office skills
- the ability to deal sensitively with challenging situations and stakeholders
- someone who can work collaboratively in our small friendly team
- the flexibility to be able to travel to different locations to carry out work, our work can take us across the UK and beyond.

The following skills and experience would also be *desirable* but are not essential:

- quantitative research, statistical analysis and survey design (including knowledge of SPSS)
- data mapping (including knowledge of QGIS)
- design skills (including knowledge InDesign and other Adobe tools)
- experience of creative facilitation with people from a variety of backgrounds
- knowledge and experience of evaluation methodologies
- co-design and participatory approaches to research and community engagement.

We can offer:

- an opportunity to develop your research skills and experience working on a range of projects in different locations
- a friendly supportive working environment
- a salary of £27,000 to £35,000 (pro rata), depending on experience
- flexibility: we are open to negotiating a three, four or five day week.