

(Post-doctoral) Researcher Education systems, aspiration and learning in remote rural settings (1,0 fte 18 months)

The International Institute of Social Studies (ISS) of Erasmus University Rotterdam, The Netherlands, is seeking to appoint one Lao National research fellow (M/F) to work on the above project on a fulltime basis for a fixed period of 18 months.

About the research project

The research project 'Education systems, aspiration and learning in remote rural settings', is funded by the ESRC-DFID raising learning outcomes scheme and led by Dr Nicola Ansell (Brunel), Dr Peggy Froerer (Brunel), Dr Roy Huijsmans (ISS) and Prof Ian Rivers (Strathclyde). The study will examine the relationship between aspiration and schooling in remote rural areas of Lesotho, India and Laos. For a fuller description of the research project:

<http://gtr.rcuk.ac.uk/projects?ref=ES/N01037X/1>

Job description

The **researcher** will be employed full-time (38 hours/week) for 18 months (starting 1st July 2016 or as soon as possible thereafter) and will spend approximately 9 months in the field in Laos, conducting ethnographic research in two remote rural schools and their surrounding communities. The remaining time will be spent at ISS in the Netherlands, including possible visits to international conferences and project meetings.

The post holder will work on a project that explores the reciprocal relationship between education and aspiration, focusing particularly on young people aged 8-22. S/he will plan and conduct fieldwork in two remote rural communities in Laos. Laos is one of three contexts for the research (the others being India and Lesotho) and the Laos-based data will be brought together with data from the other settings for analysis across the research team.

Requirements

The post holder is a Laos National citizen, will have experience in research or other relevant work, in rural Southeast Asia. S/he will have worked with young people (ideally in Laos) and will be fluent in English (written and spoken).

The application package must include a cover letter, a motivation letter outlining how the applicant meets the criteria and what the applicant brings to the project, an up-to-date CV, copies of Diplomas and contact details of three references. Applications must be submitted in one PDF file and can be sent directly to: huijsmans@iss.nl

Conditions of employment

You will receive a temporary contract for 18 months with ISS of the Erasmus University Rotterdam, the Netherlands. Salary is based on knowledge, Academic status (Master or Postdoc) and experience and is at least €2.532 up to a max. of € 4.654 gross per month (salary scale 10 and at most salary scale 11, CAO NU) at a fulltime appointment; plus 8% holiday allowance and 8.3% end-of-year allowance.

Further details on the Laos-focused post are available below. The closing date for applications is **27th June 2016**. For informal enquiries, contact huijsmans@iss.nl.

Additional information

Additional information about the Erasmus University Rotterdam, the Institute of Social Studies and this specific project, can be obtained through one of the following links:

About the [International Institute of Social Studies](#)

About the [Erasmus University](#)

About the research project: <http://gtr.rcuk.ac.uk/projects?ref=ES/N01037X/1>

Additional information about the vacancy can be obtained from Dr. Roy Huijsmans e-mail: huijsmans@iss.nl

Job Description Attributes and Competencies for the Recruitment of Research Fellow

Department	
International Institute of Social Studies	

Post Title
(Post-Doctoral) Research Fellow - Education systems, aspiration and learning in remote rural settings

Contract Type (Permanent or Fixed Term – If Fixed-Term, please specify the duration)
Fixed term – 18 months

Hours of Work (If Part-Time or Semester, please specify hours and/or weeks per year)
Full time

Grade and Salary
Salary and secondary employment conditions will be in salary scale 10 or 11 (for details, see: EUR salary) in accordance with the Collective Labour Agreement (CAO) for Dutch universities.

Purpose of the Role
<p>To undertake qualitative research for a funded research project on 'Education systems, aspiration and learning in remote rural settings'.</p> <p>Accountable to: Dr Roy Huijsmans</p> <p>Accountable for: local field assistance (employed via partner organisation)</p> <p>Key Internal Relationships: Dr Roy Huijsmans</p> <p>Key External Relationships: Jodie Fonseca (PLAN International office, Laos); Dr Nicola Ansell (Brunel, PI), Dr Peggy Froerer (Brunel)</p>

Work of the Role
<p>The postholder will work on a project that explores the reciprocal relationship between education and aspiration, focusing particularly on young people aged 8-22. They will plan and conduct fieldwork in two remote rural communities in Laos. Laos is one of three contexts for the research (the others being India and Lesotho) and the Laos-based data will be brought together with data from the other settings for analysis across the research team.</p>

Main Duties

Post Profile

The post holder will be expected to carry out independent work including in remote rural settings in Laos.

- Production of independent original research
- Take initiative in the planning of research
- Literature and policy review
- Qualitative fieldwork in two remote rural communities in Laos (including participant observation, textual analysis, individual interviews, participatory group activities with children and young people aged 8-22 and with adults)
- Record research data
- Contribute to analysis of research data
- Writing/editing academic papers, policy briefings
- Conference, seminar and workshop presentations

Additional Post Requirements

- Recruit, train and supervise field assistants as appropriate
- Engage with the research team and collaborators
- Participation in stakeholder meetings

Effective Behaviours

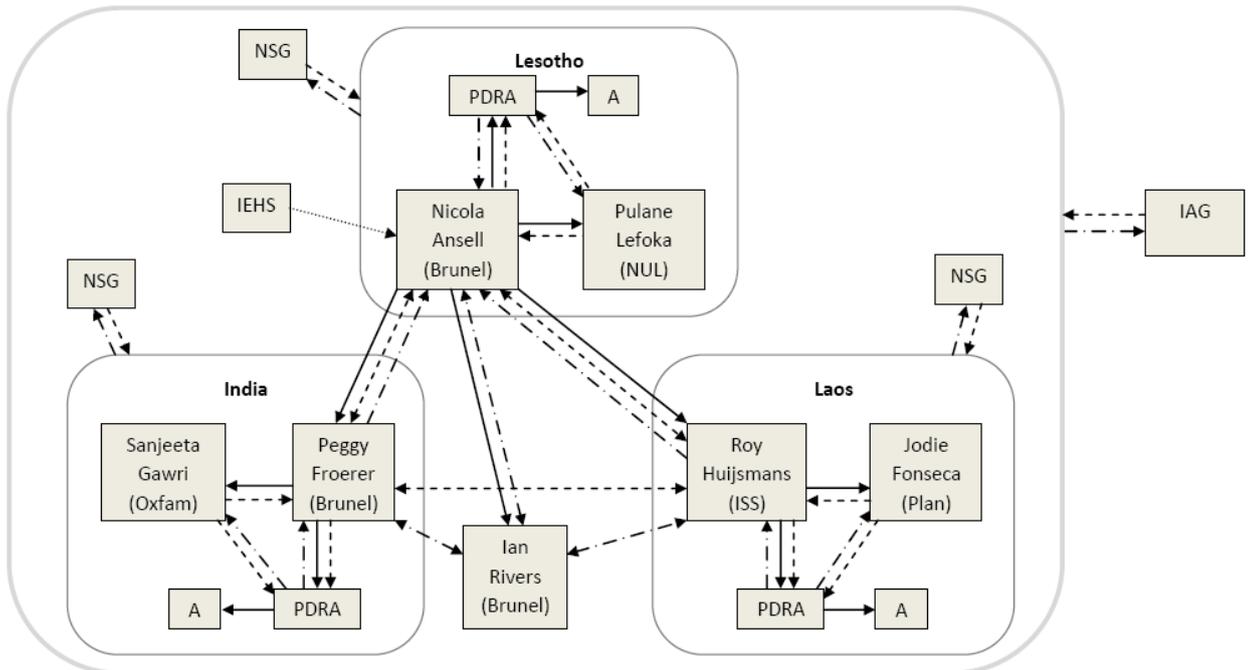
- Timeliness
- Meeting deadlines
- Communication and networking
- Ability to negotiate and influence
- Ability to plan and organise own workload
- Ability to adapt to a flexible approach to the demands of a busy research team in order to accommodate changes in priorities when required

University Policy on the Employment of Staff

- Undertake any other reasonable duties as required commensurate with the grade of the position.
- Undertake all duties and responsibilities in compliance with the rules and regulations encompassing equal opportunities.
- Adhere, comply and work in accordance with University and Departmental policies, procedures and codes of conduct.
- Actively participate in on-going professional development activities as requested.

Organizational Chart

The organizational chart comprises of the role, the manager of the role and any direct reports to the role. The vacant position is the 'PDRA' in the Laos part of the research.



IAG	International Advisory Group	A	Assistants (field assistants, translators, transcribers)	—————>	Instructions/decisions ¹
NSG	National Stakeholder Group	IEHS	Institute of Environment, Health and Societies, Brunel	- - - - ->	Advice
PDRA	Post-Doctoral Research Assistant>	Admin support	- · - · - ·>	Research findings ²

¹ Decision-making will be a collective process, but ultimate responsibility will lie with the PI. Only the principal lines of communication are included: in practice advice and findings will flow in all directions, including from the field assistants to the remainder of the research team.

² Research findings will be shared within the team using figshare. PDRA's will be responsible for ensuring that transcribed and anonymised data are uploaded to figshare for sharing.

Person Specification / Competencies

E=essential

D=desired

Disabled applicants meeting the Essential criterion will be guaranteed an interview as part of the University's commitment to Disabled People.



1. Education: Qualifications & Training	<p>Masters Degree in human geography, anthropology, sociology, education, (Southeast) Asian Studies or a cognate discipline</p> <p>PhD in human geography, anthropology, sociology, education, (Southeast) Asian Studies or a cognate discipline</p>	<p>E</p>	<p>D</p>
2. Knowledge	<p>Knowledge of rural Southeast Asian contexts.</p> <p>Fluency in spoken and written Lao language</p> <p>Fluency in spoken and written English</p> <p>Knowledge of a minority language spoken in Laos</p>	<p>E</p> <p>E</p> <p>E</p>	<p>D</p>
3. Experience	<p>Experience of planning and conducting research with little supervision.</p> <p>Experience of conducting qualitative and/or ethnographic research with young people.</p> <p>Experience of conducting research, or other relevant work, in Laos</p> <p>Experience of giving oral presentations at academic/non-academic conferences and meetings</p>	<p>E</p> <p>E</p> <p>E</p>	<p>D</p>
4. Skills & Abilities	<p>Demonstrate good communication skills – particularly the results of own Research to both specialists and non-specialists.</p> <p>Ability to organise and supervise assistants.</p> <p>Ability to draft research papers for publication in appropriate academic Journals.</p> <p>Ability to work largely on own initiative with minimum supervision.</p> <p>Ability to work collaboratively with other researchers as required.</p> <p>IT literacy.</p> <p>NVIVO and SPSS skills</p>	<p>E</p> <p>E</p> <p>E</p> <p>E</p> <p>E</p> <p>E</p>	<p>D</p>
5. Additional Attributes Required	<p>Laos Nationality</p>	<p>E</p>	

(Not Incorporated Above)			
6. Additional Requirements	A criminal records clearance certificate which can be obtained at the Vientiane Capital Court.	E	