White Rose Doctoral Training Partnership (WRDTP)
Research in Practice (RinP) Placement Opportunity

The following information has been provided by the Host Organisation and outlines the placement opportunity available. Any queries about this placement should be addressed to the Host Organisation at the details provided below.

All placements must meet the criteria listed in the WRDTP RinP Placement Framework.

This role has now closed for applications.

Host Details	
Name of Host Organisation:	University of Sheffield / LGBTQI+ Futures
Host location:	Sheffield (but largely hybrid work)
Brief description of the Host Organisation: *Please include a link to a website if you have one.*	European research consortium: LGBTQI+ youth wellbeing across Europe: Imagined Futures in Turbulent times https://www.lgbtqifutures.info We are a pan-European research consortium of feminist, queer and trans academics, working alongside policy makers and NGOs. We are seeking to generate unique in-depth data on how inequalities in wellbeing are experienced, and how LGBTQI+ youth build networks of resilience and resistance in times of crisis. A key objective is to identify how policy makers can best tackle inequalities in LGBTQI+ wellbeing by learning from the innovative strategies and visions developed by young LGBTQI+ people themselves. The project is led from the University of Sheffield, with academic partners from Sweden, Estonia, Poland and Switzerland. A full list of the team and our non-academic associate partners can be found at https://chanse.org/lgbti_futures/
Host contact details:	***Any queries about this opportunity should be addressed to the Host Organisation:*** Dr Eleanor Wilkinson (eleanor.wilkinson@sheffield.ac.uk)

Project Description

Placement role title: *e.g. Project Assistant*	Research Assistant
Background/ expected impact of the project:	This placement offers an opportunity to apply and advance specialist methodological skills and theoretical knowledge, and to gain experience working as part of a large cross-national European research consortium. LGBTQI+_FUTURES is a funded large-scale three -year research project exploring LGBTQI+ youth wellbeing across Europe during a period of turbulence and crisis. The placement is to work primarily with the UK team, but the student will form part of the wider cross-disciplinary European team (with specialists from across Geography, Sociology, Gender Studies and Social Work, and non-academic partners from national and international NGOs). The placement will provide experience of what it's like to work as part of a large cross-national interdisciplinary research project, and will advance core skills in teamwork, qualitative research methods, and project management. It would be particularly suitable for someone looking to move onto postdoctoral research, or a career in equalities policy research at either UK or European level. The Research Assistant will work primarily on the UK work-package, working under the support and mentorship of the Project Lead (Dr Eleanor Wilkinson) and UK postdoc (Dr Ames Clark), both based in Geography and Planning at the University of Sheffield. The RA will be working on stage 2 of this wider research project: which consists of a series of creative workshops with LGBTQ+ young adults. The workshops seek to address the following two research questions: ● RQ1: What does 'wellbeing' mean to LGBTI+ youth across different European nations, and what do they feel are the current barriers to, and enablers of, good levels of wellbeing? ● RQ2: How do LGBTI+ youth imagine their individual and collective futures whilst growing up in times of crisis and uncertainty, and what are their visions for a future in which their wellbeing is enhanced? Creative methods will produce in-depth data about what LGBTQI+ youth think, and feel, about their lives and imagined futures. The project will let LGBTQI+ young adults define what wellbeing means to them and will open-up space for them to construct collective visions for a future in which their wellbeing can be enhanced.

Outline of duties:	The Research Assistant would be working as part of a European research project, with partners across 5 countries (UK, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland and Estonia). The primary purpose of this role is to work under the supervision of the UK team to help facilitate youth workshops with LGBTQI+ youth across England and Wales (aged 18-24). The RA would work under the supervision of Dr Ames Clark to run these workshops together. Most of these workshops will take place in person, at various locations across England and Wales, so the RA would be expected to travel (though venues will be easily accessible by public transport). It is likely to involve some weekend work, as some participants can only attend during this time, but time can then be taken lieu. One workshop will take place online to ensure accessibility. There will be 6-8 workshops in total during the 3-month period. The workshops will last around 4 hours each (with the online one being broken into a series of shorter sessions). The RA will be offered training and support in the various research methods the project uses (primarily a range of creative methods). To ensure the workplan is meaningful and useful to the successful applicant, we have allocated space on the placement for them to work on any other aspect of the project that they feel would enrich career development and the development of transferable skills.
Expected output(s)/ deliverable(s):	Youth workshops ● Helping deliver 6-8 creative youth workshops, working alongside Dr Ames Clark to co-facilitate these. ● Helping support the logistics of setting up the workshops: including negotiating with local LGBTQI+ charities for room hire, speaking with participants in advance of the workshops around their accessibility needs etc. ● Helping with data deposition and preparing the data for archiving via the UK data service. Either: i) delivering a scoping review of LGBTQI+ wellbeing research (in partnership with the post-doc and PI), with a planned co-authored publication emerging from this work. ii) or, beginning a policy briefing for UK policy makers on the key issues facing LGBTQI+ youth today (in partnership with the post-doc and PI).

	Any other outputs/deliverable will be optional, and discussed at the start of the placement, to ensure that the programme of work helps aid the career development of the RA (e.g. presenting at a conference related to the project, working on a co-authored journal article, or helping set up our pod-cast series).
Support for Postgraduate Researcher:	We are a team of 14 academics, postdocs and PGRs across Europe. ECRs meet weekly online to discuss progress and provide peer mentorship and support. We have monthly whole-team meetings, with semesterly meetings dedicated to ECR career progression and wellbeing. We have an additional budget to support the PGR attending academic conferences / policy events / training events related to the project.
Skills and experience required for the role:	**Essential** ● Previous experience of qualitative research ● Experience of working with marginalized groups ● A proven track-record of conducting ethical research with sensitivity and care ● Enthusiasm for working as part of a team, and a willingness to provide peer mentorship to other PGRs **Desirable** ● Experience of researching LGBTQI+ lives, or familiarity with academic literature in this area ● Experience of using creative methods ● Experience of conducting focus groups / workshops ● Experience of conducting scoping reviews and / or policy reviews ● A good understanding of data security and how to safely store confidential data

Key Information	
Placement ideal start date:	May 2026 (but some potential flexibility with start dates)
Placement duration:	3 months if working full-time
Full-time or part-time: *e.g. 37.5 hours per week or usually 18-19 hours per week*	Either full-time or part-time, we are able to accommodate either
In-person, online or hybrid:	Hybrid

Security/ health and safety restrictions (if relevant):	n/a
Anticipated costs and financial support the Host can offer to help cover these (if relevant): *e.g. travel and subsistence costs.*	Travel and subsistence costs for fieldwork will be covered by the host. We also have a small pot of money to support the candidate to attend policy or academic events related to the project.

How to Apply	
Closing date and time for applications:	This role has now closed for applications
Application format: *e.g. CV, cover letter, application form, etc*	***Please confirm on your application that you are a Postgraduate Researcher who has funding through a DTP to undertake a placement as part of your studentship and indicate which DTP you are a member of.*** A concise 2 page CV, and a brief cover letter of no more than one side highlighting how you meet the job criteria, and how the placement fits with your career aspirations and / or your own political/ personal motivations for working on this project.
How to submit an application:	Please email your application directly to Dr Ames Clark ames.clark@sheffield.ac.uk
Recruitment process:	***The Host Organisation is responsible for processing the applications received for this opportunity and applications will be processed as follows:*** All applications will be reviewed by a short-listing panel consisting of the Project Lead (Wilkinson) and the post-doctoral researcher (Clark). If there are a number of strong applicants, we will conduct a brief 20-minute informal online interview with each candidate. Questions for the interview will be shared in advance.