



## **RESEARCHER**

AFA Scotland is currently recruiting for a Researcher.

To apply, please submit your CV and covering letter, which should briefly address each of the essential criteria detailed in the Job Specification. Applications to be received no later than Friday 2 July 2021 at 5.00pm.

Brenda Reilly, Business Support & Finance Manager

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Tel: 0131 322 8490  
Email: [info@afascotland.com](mailto:info@afascotland.com)  
Web: [www.afascotland.com](http://www.afascotland.com)

Post: Researcher  
Contract: Fixed term post for 8 months (with possibility of extension, dependent on funding)  
Hours: 21 hours (3 days) per week  
Salary: £34,810 p.a. (pro rata)

Reporting to: Maggie Grant (Research Associate)  
Robin Duncan (Executive Director)

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The Adoption and Fostering Alliance (AFA) Scotland is an independent, charitable membership organisation dedicated to improving outcomes for children in care by providing support to all those involved in adoption, fostering and kinship care. AFA Scotland's multi-disciplinary and highly experienced team delivers a wide range of training, consultancy, workshops and conferences to assist professionals. They also provide a range of direct services to agencies. An emphasis is placed in all AFA Scotland's work on the need for a multi-disciplinary approach that enables effective work across professional boundaries in order to meet the needs of children and their carers.

AFA Scotland also hosts [Scotland's Adoption Register \(SAR\)](#) and co-hosts the [Kinship Care Advisory Service Scotland \(KCASS\)](#). SAR is an organisation funded by Scottish Government with a remit to promote, support, and facilitate the family finding process for Scotland's children who have been registered for permanence through adoption. The KCASS service is hosted by AFA in collaboration with AUK and provides a service to ensure that kinship carers and all those who work with them in Scotland get the best possible support.

We are seeking to recruit an experienced and talented individual as a Researcher to contribute to our current research projects and wider services.

There is some flexibility in the role, and we are willing to consider a job share.

## **APPLICATIONS**

To apply, please submit a CV and a covering letter, which should briefly address each of the criteria outlined below, to Brenda Reilly, Business Support & Finance Manager at [brenda.reilly@afascotland.com](mailto:brenda.reilly@afascotland.com). If you would like to discuss the post further, please contact Maggie Grant on [margaret.grant@afascotland.com](mailto:margaret.grant@afascotland.com)

**Closing date** 5.00pm, Friday 2 July 2021  
**Interview date** Friday 16 July 2021  
**Location** Online Platform MS Teams

## **JOB SUMMARY AND PURPOSE**

### Purpose of the role

This post is primarily to provide support for AFA Scotland's research activities, including developing funding bids, carrying out research, contributing to wider projects and providing information on research evidence for AFA's multi-disciplinary membership. It is a varied role that involves balancing research project work with regular activities to ensure that research knowledge reaches, and can be used by, a wide range of audiences.

The post-holder will be part of a small research team that works collaboratively with each other and with the wider AFA and SAR teams. The team also works closely with a number of universities and third sector partners to carry out and contribute to research, with a particular focus on work that can inform practice and policy.

The role has two main parts: carrying out research and supporting others to access and use research to inform practice and policy.

It will involve:

- Contributing to developing research proposals and funding bids
- Undertaking data collection, including interviews with adoptive parents and social workers
- Accessing secondary data and literature from a range of sources
- Undertaking data analysis (mostly qualitative)
- Seeking and incorporating feedback on draft materials
- Writing as part of the research team
- Helping to organise activities to disseminate learning, including online events
- Working closely with AFA's Research Associate and other staff at AFA, SAR and KCASS to support research and knowledge exchange activities
- Carrying out administrative tasks to support research and related activities

The post-holder will be expected to work primarily from home but will be required to attend meetings in Edinburgh or elsewhere in the future where possible within the Covid 19 restrictions. AFA Scotland will provide a laptop and other equipment as necessary.

### Essential Criteria

- At least a master's degree in social sciences, or a related field
- Knowledge of research methods, including qualitative methods
- Experience of independent data collection and analysis
- Ability to work sensitively with research participants and adapt data collection practices as required
- Knowledge of care experienced children and their families, social work practice and/or related areas
- Excellent communication skills in both spoken and written English, including communicating with a range of audiences
- Ability to engage external collaborators
- Excellent administrative, organisational, team-working and IT skills
- Ability to work autonomously and to meet deadlines within an agreed framework