

Intellectual Disabilities Research Institute

Job Description for a Research Associate with Lived Experience

Background Information



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Intellectual Disabilities
Research Institute

We are part of the 'Intellectual Disabilities Research Institute'. We call it IDRIS.



IDRIS is a group of researchers at the University of Birmingham.



IDRIS does research to help people with learning disabilities.



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IDRIS does research to help the families of people with learning disabilities.



Lots of things are unfair for people with learning disabilities and their families.



Our research aims to make things better for people with learning disabilities and their families.



- IDRIS works with **services (like schools and hospitals).**



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IDRIS works in **partnership** with people with learning disabilities.



Partnership means making choices together.



The ideas that people with learning disabilities have are important.



People with learning disabilities help IDRIS with research in lots of ways:

- People with learning disabilities help IDRIS **choose the right questions** to ask in research.



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- People with learning disabilities help IDRIS **plan** the research.



- People with learning disabilities help IDRIS **do** the research.



- People with learning disabilities help IDRIS **share** what we learn from the research in ways that are easy to understand.



IDRIS wants somebody who has a learning disability to join our group of researchers.



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You will share your experiences of having a learning disability



- In this job, you will speak up for people with learning disabilities.



- In this job, you will work together with other people to do research.



- In this job, you will lead a group of people with learning disabilities who give advice to researchers.



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You do **not** need a school or university qualification to do this job.

Person Specification



You **must** have done work like this before:



- You must have shared your experiences of having a learning disability to help others in a paid **or** unpaid job.



- You must have worked in **advocacy** (speaking up for people), **policy** (helping make rules), or **research** (helping find out new information).



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About This Job



This job is about helping with research. You will help by sharing your experiences as a person with a learning disability.



You will work with researchers together in a way that is called **co-production**.



Co-production means working together to do better research:



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- In co-production, everybody works together as equals.



- In co-production, everybody shares their ideas and makes decisions together.



Co-production makes research better because it **includes** the ideas, needs, and experiences of people with learning disabilities.



Some of the ways that you will help in research are:



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- You will be in charge of meetings that people with learning disabilities have, and you will give everybody a chance to speak up.



- You will help people to understand why researchers, staff, and policy makers need to learn directly from people with learning disabilities.



- You will help create and plan new research.



- You will help us to write about what we want to do so that we can get money to do our research.





- You will offer training and give advice to teams of other researchers in the University of Birmingham.



- You might offer training and give advice to people who do **not** work at the University of Birmingham.



- You will help us to understand the information that we collect in research.



- You will have a lead role in helping people to understand our research. You will help write reports that are easy to understand.



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- You will help us to help people with learning disabilities get involved in research.



- You will give help and advice to staff and students who are helping with research.



- You will set a good example for others by treating everybody fairly and kindly. You will respect everyone's differences and include them to make work a place where everyone feels welcome.



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About You



You can apply for this job if you have a learning disability.



You **must** have done work like this before:



- You must have shared your experiences of having a learning disability to help others in a paid **or** unpaid job.



- You must have worked in **advocacy, policy, or research.**



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You must be able to clearly explain information to people with learning disabilities.



You must know about [The Equality Act 2010](#). There are [nine protected characteristics](#). These include things like disability, age, and race. You can click on both of these for more information.



The right to be treated fairly

You must make sure that everybody is treated fairly and kindly.



It would be helpful if you had done a course about working in research or advocacy. **It is ok to apply for this job if you have not done a course.**



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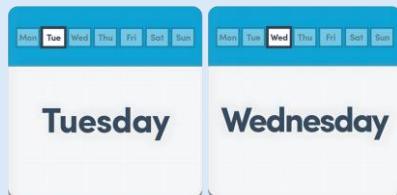
Pay and Working Hours



This job is part-time, and you will work for 7-and-a-half hours each week.



You will be paid £16.92 per hour for your work.



Most of the people that you will work with will be at the University of Birmingham on Tuesday or Wednesday.



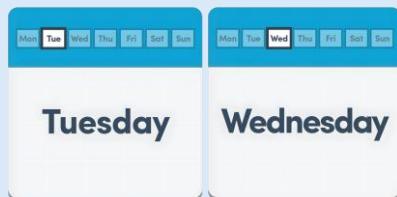
You will come to work at the University of Birmingham on Tuesday or Wednesday.



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You could split your hours across both days (for example, half of your hours on Tuesday and half of your hours on Wednesday).



Sometimes, there might be events and meetings on other days of the week. You might need to travel to events and meetings.



We would like you to come to these events and meetings. That might mean working on other days.



If you apply for the job and you are successful, you could start as soon as possible.



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This job ends on 31 December

2026:



- We might make the job last longer than 31 December 2026 and we will tell you if this happens.



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