

Vacancy Notice: Researcher, Future of Learning and Innovation

Duty Station: Home-based

Type of contract: Consultancy

Duration: 6 months, with possibility of extension

Salary: commensurate with experience

Deadline: 23 December 2020 (at 23:59, Paris time)

Application to be sent to ERF@unesco.org (CV, cover letter, and copies of relevant degrees/certificates)

Background

With accelerated climate change, the fragility of our planet is becoming more and more apparent. Persistent inequalities, social fragmentation, and political extremism are bringing many societies to a point of crisis. Advances in digital communication, artificial intelligence, and biotechnology have great potential but also raise serious ethical and governance concerns, especially as promises of innovation and technological change have an uneven record of contributing to human flourishing. The urgency of the challenges before us potentially requires a radical transformation of mindsets and of our conceptions of human well-being, development, and how to share the planet. Rethinking the purpose of education and the organization of learning is at the heart of this transformation. The multifaceted impact of the crisis caused by the coronavirus disruption of our health, economic and social systems has further underlined the urgency of looking beyond the 2030 horizon to examine probable and possible long-term futures.

Building on a continuous review of research production, an analysis of both global education policy and emerging megatrends, as well as broad on-line and offline consultations, the Future of Learning and Innovation programme reinforces UNESCO's observatory function in education. Through more synergetic research and foresight, this activity aims to strengthen UNESCO's capacity to guide and inform and lead the global debate on the future of education.

To this end, the Future of Learning and Innovation team is seeking to recruit an experienced researcher to support with monitoring the most recent research, emerging ideas and trends in international development and education..

Overview of tasks

The researcher will work with members of the Future of Learning and Innovation team under the direct supervision of the Director. In particular, the incumbent will:

- Monitor and analyze recent education and development trends and issues
- Review and synthesize most recent research literature on selected emerging education and development issues. Contribute to the generation of fresh ideas (blogs) related to the future of education, knowledge and learning

- Undertake peer review of research and knowledge products prepared across various UNESCO entities
- Support the development of research project proposals

Required qualifications

Education

- PhD in the field of international education, development studies, public policy, international relations, economics, and/or other relevant fields

Work experience

- Minimum of 4 years of relevant experience in research and analysis
- Experience in mobilizing research networks at international and/or regional levels

Skills and competencies

- Strong analytical skills
- Excellent drafting and editing skills with proven record of published research
- Excellent interpersonal skills and ability to build and maintain effective working relations with colleagues, partners, relevant institutions, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other relevant institutions
- Solid IT skills including knowledge of Office software

Languages

- Excellent knowledge of English (written and oral)
- Good working knowledge of French

Desirable qualifications

- Experience in education foresight research
- Working knowledge of Spanish or another UN language (Arabic, Chinese, or Russian)

How to apply

To apply, please send your CV, cover-letter and relevant degrees to ERF@unesco.org by 23 December 2020 (23:59, Paris time).