EQUITABLE EDUCATION AND ECONOMIES (EEE)

In delivering 'social science that makes a difference' the Research Divisions, Units, Institutes and Centres of the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) undertake policy-oriented research from its offices in Pretoria, Cape Town, and Sweetwaters. Our public purpose mandate is set out in the Human Sciences Research Council Act of 2008.

The Equitable Education and Economies (EEE) division undertakes research to transform educational outcomes and increase economic participation. It recognises that education and the economy have long been linked, and conducts research to understand educational performance and improve learning outcomes, and to interrogate social, spatial and structural obstacles to economic participation.

EEE is currently engaged in a project called *u'Good!?*, which aims to test and further develop relational approaches to wellbeing; and generate empirical insights into key contemporary challenges to young people's wellbeing, and how they are addressing these in relation to livelihoods, climate change, digitalization and mental health.

Young people are the most important grouping in this programme and we seek to incorporate them in a variety of ways that will ensure their voices and lived experiences inform the work at programmatic and research project levels. As a multi-country programme we are aware of the difficulties that contextual and language diversity brings to meaningful partnership and collaboration with young people.

It is with this recognition that we seek to appoint a high functioning and innovative Youth Engagement Specialist , that together with the Youth Steering Committee can support the research programme in this way. This will be a freelancer position, and that contract will be over a period of four (4) years. The successful incumbent will be expected to be available from January 2025.

Youth Engagement Specialist – Freelancer
Ref. No: U'GOOD-YES 11/2024

Key Responsibilities:

1. **Coordinate** all aspects of youth engagement across the *U'Good!?* research programme as part of a large multi-country research team under the leadership and guidance of the Principal Investigators, across a maximum of 23 research projects.
2. **Oversight on the management and co-ordination** of a maximum of four Youth Steering Committee members.
3. **Advise and assist** to **implement best practices and innovations for ensuring meaningful collaboration and partnership with young people** throughout the facets of the programme.
4. **Provide expert insights** on Youth Engagement through liaison with the programme Principal Investigators (PIs), thematic leads and Project PIs.
5. **Guide and ensure youth engagement** in key programme outputs (for example, a documentary, the Monitoring, Evaluation and Strategic Learning (MESL) framework)
6. **Attend** advisory committee **meetings** as required (a maximum of 3 meetings per annum)
7. **Attend** 3 international *u'Good!?* conferences

8. **Attend** Community of practice (CoP) events and initiatives (a minimum of 3 per annum)
9. **Develop new areas of inquiry** within the project on youth engagement in order to further develop your own research interests.

Key requirements:

1. **A completed Master's** degree in the Social Sciences;
2. At least 3-5 years' **youth engagement experience** in a research environment;
3. Exposure particularly to **multi-stakeholder and/or multi-country research projects** would be an advantage;
4. A track record of **peer reviewed, accredited publications** (at least 3-5 publications, with some first authored and some international);
5. An understanding of **administrative procedures** linked to research processes and activities will be an advantage;
6. **Fluency and proficiency** in English and Spanish/French with excellent written and verbal **communication** skills;
7. Competency in **computer programmes** such as Word, OneDrive, Excel, PowerPoint, referencing software
8. Proactive with a **problem-solving** mindset, advanced organisational skills, the ability to multi-task and with great attention to detail.

The HSRC offers attractive, market-related salaries, depending on qualifications, experience and recent performance.

APPLICATIONS:
1. A 1-2 pages cover letter indicating your suitability for the position by highlighting: 1) your experience in working with Young People, 2) the contribution you would make towards advancing Relational Wellbeing (RWB), and 3) your experience in youth wellbeing.
2. A detailed CV with a list of publications and an indication of your country of origin.

Please register and submit your application on-line at https://hsrc.erecruit.co/

Application Instructions:
- Candidates can make use of their mobile devices or any browser to register on the Neptune recruitment site, as well as to make application for available vacancies;
- Candidates will be prompted to upload their documents;
- Attachments must be less than 1MB (here is an on-screen option to resize);
- The Neptune system will only allow you to upload 1 attachment. **Please ensure that all documents are merged into 1 file before uploading.**

Only applications that comply with these requirements will be considered.

Enquiries (NOT Applications or CVs) may be directed to **Dr Angelique Wildschut** email **awildschut@hsrc.ac.za.**

The HSRC is committed to accelerating the improvement in the proportion of its researchers who are black, female or disabled.

Closing date: **19 December 2024.** We encourage applicants to submit prior to the closing date. If you do not receive any response from us within eight weeks, please accept that your application

was unsuccessful. Only candidates who are interviewed will be advised of the outcome of their application.

The HSRC reserves the right not to make an appointment.

APPLICATIONS FROM RECRUITMENT AGENCIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.