



European Union

European Regional
Development Fund

Research Mentor Job Description

Are you passionate about research? Are you keen to ensure that educational technology products are developed based on evidence? Do you want to be part of the development of innovative Educational Technology (EdTech) products, services, and companies designed to benefit the education ecosystem?

We are currently seeking research mentors to join the EDUCATE team

Salary: £38k pro rata (dependent on experience)

Start date: Dependent on the person

Duration: Until Aug 2023

Location: Virtual/London (negotiable)

Application Deadline: This is a rolling application, please submit your application as soon as you are ready.

Person Specification

The EDUCATE team are looking for a highly organised person with a strong ability to use and adopt digital tools, to join our team to work on the EDUCATE Research Accelerator, a programme for edtech startups part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund. The person must be able to engage with our virtual team, project partners and the companies that we serve on the EDUCATE accelerator. They must also align with our company motto: everyone learning all of the time.

The successful candidate will be able to provide evidence demonstrating their ability to effectively carry out the key responsibilities of this appointment.

About EDUCATE VENTURES

At EDUCATE Ventures, our goal is to ensure that emerging technology is applied to human intelligence ethically, transparently, and led by the evidence. Our mission is to advance the efficacy of educational technology by making the best research evidence and practice accessible for educators, researchers and technology developers. We believe that access to, and the application of, research is fundamental in ensuring that we can take full advantage of the opportunities that EdTech has to improve learning.

Whether building research capacity in teams, consulting on how to work with data, auditing a school's tech provision, or cultivating an AI mindset, EDUCATE has the expertise to work with organisations across the education ecosystem to maximise potential in teaching and learning.

It is Educate Venture's mission to empower human intelligence so that everyone can fulfil their life potential. Diversity and inclusion are central to this mission. Our world is constantly changing, and the contexts of learners change with it. Fulfilling the potential of every learner at every stage of their life requires the advancement and inclusion of a varied range of perspectives and EDUCATE Ventures is committed to creating an inclusive working environment.

About this Role

Purpose of the role

To support EdTech companies in developing their impact strategy and research competencies so they can more effectively make product development decisions and more clearly communicate the benefits of their evidence-led EdTech to the potential users and stakeholders.

Essential requirements

- A good honours degree (or equivalent) with subject knowledge in a relevant field
- A post-graduate qualification (e.g. Masters) in a field of Education, Psychology or cognate areas
- Understanding/ expertise in working with theories of change, programme evaluations and development of logic models
- Ability to contribute to the design and evaluation of educational technology in real educational contexts
- Expertise in, and experience with, mixed methods, in-depth understanding of both quantitative and qualitative research methods that can support evaluation, data collection and analyses
- Expertise and experience in working with EdTech stakeholder groups. For example, teachers, parents, policymakers and educational technology developers
- Excellent interpersonal skills, including the ability to communicate effectively and sensitively with participants, relevant stakeholders as well as project partners
- Strong verbal communication skills, as evidenced by oral presentations at conferences or to relevant organisations (e.g. charities, schools, higher education staff)
- Experience in translating academic findings for non-academic audiences both orally and in written form
- Ability to work both independently and as part of a team, co-operating with colleagues to help the team achieve team goals in a timely and coordinated manner
- A proven ability to write clearly and concisely

- Excellent organisational skills, including the ability to manage time, resources, and commitments effectively

Desirable requirements

- PhD in a field of Education, Psychology or cognate areas.
- Strong knowledge and experience of impact evaluation methodologies including randomised control trials.
- Additional engagement/experience with technology-enhanced learning and learning analytics.
- Well-developed analytical skills.
- Track record of peer-reviewed publications and/or conference presentations.
- Evidence of commitment to personal learning and professional development.
- Experience working with small and early stage EdTech companies and/or development of EdTech products.
- Track record of implementing research methods in non-academic organisations.

Key Responsibilities:

The person will report to the Director of Acceleration and will be responsible for:

- Support and track the progression of EdTech companies in developing viable research strategies that are both relevant to the stage of the business, and consistent with and grounded in relevant research evidence.
- Develop training and lead workshops to help EdTech companies understand foundational research concepts.
- Signpost to additional support for EdTech companies through existing links, EDUCATE partners, networking events and seminars.
- Continue to maintain the relationship with EdTech companies after they have completed the core research training, by providing them with a full range of research guidance. This will range from existing evidence to the practicalities of conducting research and what counts as evidence.

- Help EdTech companies develop a research proposal relevant to their educational technology business concept/product. Ensure that they understand the key factors in their research proposal and help them to understand how to collect and analyse data appropriately.
- Record the EDUCATE programme companies journey, using and working in co-operation with the EDUCATE Programme Coordinator and EDUCATE programme partners to ensure monitoring of progress and compliance with the ERDF programme.
- At regular intervals, check in with EdTech companies that you are working with, in order to determine their level of satisfaction and record feedback.
- Contribute to the development of EDUCATE's products and services.
- Develop good internal working relationships within the EDUCATE team including exchanging information, 'best practice' ideas, and experiences.
- Conduct literature reviews and synthesize findings to produce reports for EDUCATE beneficiaries.
- Carry out research on the efficacy of the EDUCATE programme.

In addition, you will be expected:

- To Adhere to the EDUCATE Ventures business values and mission.
- To carry out any other duties commensurate with the grade and purpose of the post.

As duties and responsibilities change, the job description will be reviewed and amended in consultation with the post holder.

To Apply

Please submit the following to lulah@educateventures.com

1. CV outlining any experience relevant to the role and two people who can provide references (we will not contact your referees unless you are successful in the application process).
2. A cover letter explaining why you are applying for the role.

Based on the above information we will be selecting candidates for one interview Date TBC

The EDUCATE 2.0 project

The EDUCATE 2.0 project is a 2.5 year ERDF funded initiative that is being delivered by F6S in collaboration with EDUCATE Ventures and BESA. EDUCATE 2.0 will set up a physical and virtual working space where EdTech SMEs and researcher entrepreneurs will work together with research and business experts. All participants will be trained, supported and resourced. The focus of activity for the EdTech SMEs will be to help them to use research evidence to inform the design of their products and services. They will also learn how to set up an effective evaluation trial to demonstrate the value of their product or service. The focus for research entrepreneurs will be on helping them to develop the business skills and acumen to commercialise their research idea. SMEs and researchers will be mentored to work with teachers and parents (their customers) to evaluate their product's educational value and stimulate the demand. In this way, EDUCATE 2.0 will translate research into new and better Educational Products, and will stimulate demand for new and improved products. This will increase the sector's economic growth and London's competitiveness. EDUCATE 2.0 will also facilitate knowledge exchange between Higher Education and SMEs. It will engage SMEs in the R & D process and stimulate their investment in these activities in the future.

Staff will generally work at home and the programme will be delivered online. An initial interview will assess whether or not the SME/researcher is ready to benefit from a place in the co-working space. SMEs/researchers who are not successful at gaining a place in the co-working space will be invited to use the EDUCATE 2.0 virtual portal. Research start-ups and SMEs will be allocated the same level of support within EDUCATE 2.0, but this support will be tailored to their needs. All will be allocated an experienced mentor who will work with them throughout their involvement with EDUCATE 2.0. A key objective for the engagement will be for SMEs and researchers to develop their plans for working with their customer base of teachers or parents to design a research study to test the effectiveness of their product and give them evidence to present to investors and customers.

As SMEs and research entrepreneurs progress within the EDUCATE 2.0 programme a range of services will be offered to them: product evaluation, testing and validation; accountancy and tax advice; grant writing, investor readiness support; dissemination and showcasing. This support will be available as required and not in a strict order. In addition, bespoke training sessions will be organized in response to needs expressed by the community.

Each SME and researcher that passes-through the programme will also contribute evidence about their research use and trial design and results that will add to the content available through the EDUCATE 2.0 virtual clinic.