

**Faculty of Business, Law and Social Sciences**

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| **Proposed Title:** Barriers to learning for children with special education needs in the Birmingham area Education System |
| **School:** Social Sciences (Department of Psychology) |
| **Proposed Supervisory Team:**  Dr Paraic Scanlon, Senior Lecturer in Psychology Dr Emily Coyne-Umfreville, Senior Lecturer in Psychology Dr Emily Harrison, Senior Lecturer in Psychology Dr Ian Mundy, Lecturer in Psychology |
| **Abstract:**  This project aims to understand the experiences of children with visible and invisible special education needs (SEN) in the Birmingham area educational system, and the attitudes of their educators and peers toward them within educational settings. This will be studied through analysis of large-scale Local Education Authority data on retention, progression and inclusion. Also, In-school examination of educator and peer attitudes toward children with SEN will take place to identify specific issues, using quantitative and qualitative methods. This project will help develop our knowledge toward improving the educational experience of children with SEN, at both policy and teaching practice level. |
| **Research Environment:**  This project will be one of three flagship PhD studentships of the recently launched *Birmingham Data Lab*, part of Birmingham City University’s School of Social Sciences. The Data Lab was established in 2019 to examine the important social issues facing Birmingham using large data sets, investigating questions which are relevant to the public and private sector during the next decade of dramatic structural and social change. The Data Lab employs in-house research and large data set skills within the School of Social Sciences to target the research questions of most concern and highest priority for local communities and stakeholders. |
| **Candidate Requirements:**    **Essential:**  **As this project will involve working with schools, a suitable candidate will only be appointed subject to a full, clear, enhanced DBS check.**  BSc Psychology (Hons) Degree (2:1)  Computer proficiency (Microsoft office, SPSS)  Good communication skills  Good writing ability  PG Cert or willingness to gain  Undergraduate level quantitative statistical analysis  Effective oral and written communication skills  Ability to work as a member of a team with shared goals  Interpersonal skills, ability to relate to others with tact and diplomacy  **Desirable:**  First Class BSc Psychology (Hons) degree  MSc in Psychology or Psychological Research Methods  Experience conducting psychological experiments  Experience working with children in a school environment  Experience liaising with school administration and management  Special Needs Education experience  Experience with Large Data Sets |
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