

QUALITATIVE RM JOB DESCRIPTION

11 November 2015

Description of team and role

We explore what people in Kurdistan think and feel and, as far as possible, why they think and feel as they do. We pay close attention to the frames and the narratives at play – the stories by which people organise information and interpret events. Our main interest is thoughts and feelings in relation to politics. We track what matters to people and why, all the time taking a broad view on the currents of opinion.

The researcher will be involved in all aspects of the research cycle, including identifying research objectives, designing and overseeing research projects, analysing results and communicating findings. The researcher will be part of a small team and will help manage Kurdish moderators and field staff, developing their skills and troubleshooting problems to ensure overall functioning of the research team.

Responsibilities:

- Manage qualitative Research projects through all stages of the research process;
 - Translating strategic questions and objectives into research projects
 - Determine appropriate methodologies, sampling structures and brief local recruiters on recruitment
 - Produce discussion guides for Kurdish moderators to explore what Kurds think and feel. Brief moderators before research to communicate research objectives, and ensure the guide is clear
 - Analyse transcripts and produce reports addressing defined research objectives, keeping in mind broader strategy
- Communicate research findings both internally and externally – presentations, reports and briefings
- Develop content knowledge of current affairs and local social political and cultural issues:
 - Maintain awareness of current affairs through reading and attending regular media briefings
 - Work with research and media team to develop an understanding of how current affairs shape opinions and affect research findings
- Help manage team of Kurdish moderators and field staff
 - Help local staff develop research capacity
 - Develop/introduce new research methods in an environment relatively new to research ensuring research methods are culturally appropriate
 - Manage local staff workload and research expenses

Skills and Experience

- Min 3 years' experience conducting in-depth interviews, focus groups and online discussions. Ideally should have moderated focus groups.
- Likely have a degree in psychology, marketing, politics, sociology or other social sciences.
- Proven track record of delivering highly insightful qualitative research reports and presentations.
- Ability to assimilate large amounts of information, both in terms of analysing transcripts in light of specific research objectives and identifying subtle currents of opinion over longer time periods
- Working to fast paced and shifting deadlines and priorities.

- Ability to think quickly and practically to troubleshoot problems that may arise with the research
- Be responsive and sensitive to changing strategic context and priorities; flexibility in research agenda
- Sensibilities to develop an understanding of how Kurdish people think and feel (and why) and the multiple factors (location, age, gender, political affiliation, media consumption, history etc.) that inform this
- Active interest in different cultures, society, people and politics.
- Strong written communication skills and sensitivity to writing for non-native English speakers
- Strong verbal communication skills and patience to offer clear direction to local staff; willingness to share and explain their research skills with others

Characteristics

As a team we value curiosity, integrity and a desire to trail-blaze. The individual should be able to deal with the pressures of a small team and intense environment. We are looking for someone who will become an active member of the team, self-sufficient and willing to pitch in with the logistical side of running a house and office in Kurdistan.

Languages: English; Kurdish or Arabic a bonus