

Research Director – Social & Political Research

(Mixed methodology, with focus on quantitative)

Location: Erbil, Kurdistan (option for rotational contract or expat contract)
Reports To: Chief of Staff

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.

As Associate Director / Research Director (title commensurate with experience) you will be responsible for all aspects of the research cycle for both qualitative and quantitative research, including identifying research objectives, designing and overseeing research projects, analysing results and communicating findings. You will manage a team of Western and Kurdish researchers, supporting their development and troubleshooting problems to ensure overall functioning of the research team.

Overall Objective

- To take overall responsibility for all qualitative and quantitative research projects
- To inform research agenda through detailed understanding of client priorities
- To ensure high quality research deliverables
- To manage and support growth of research team

Key Responsibilities

- Project design & management
 - To co-ordinate and manage qualitative and quantitative research projects through all stages of the project lifecycle
 - To identify research needs and inform research agenda
 - To be able to advise and direct others on all aspects of project design (particularly with regards to quantitative projects)
 - To be able to advise and direct others on all aspects of questionnaire design
 - With support from the research team, to be familiar with key sample design issues including response rates and effect of non-response, boosted samples, effective sample sizes, impact of design on potential analysis
 - To be able to specify a sample design to meet the aims of research specifications
 - To ensure high-quality analysis
 - To ensure high-quality final deliverables (research reports and presentations)
 - To deliver engaging presentations of research findings, and support Research Managers in developing their presentation skills
- Staff management
 - To line manage a team of qualitative and quantitative researchers
 - To work closely with the Head of Field Research and support management of his local team
 - To assist the Chief of Staff with decisions about staffing and the organisation of recruitment
- Client liaison
 - To advise clients on new projects and build relationships with collaborators
- Subject knowledge expertise
 - To understand/advise others on politics/political issues and how they affect research needs and client priorities
- Proposal writing
 - To write/contribute to proposals as necessary

Skills required

- Political research and/or communications research expertise preferable e.g. research focused on parties, voters, issues and communications
- Familiarity with sampling methodologies/procedures for face-to-face quantitative research
- Excellent interpersonal skills
- Strong initiative, negotiation and influencing skills
- Problem solving, analytical and numerical skills
- Proactive account management

- Ability to deliver results, meet deadlines and manage time effectively
- Client management skills
- Excellent written, oral and electronic communication skills

Personal attributes

- Self-discipline
- Self-motivation
- Positive attitude
- Excellent organisational skills
- Professional attitude

Experience required

- Experience of day-to-day running MR projects (including client contact, survey design and report writing)
- Experience of quantitative research
- Knowledge of qualitative research
- Knowledge of politics and/or communications
- Cross-cultural experience (Middle East experience preferred)

Education and qualifications

- Educated up to degree / HND level in a relevant subject
- Strong Excel skills
- SPSS skills
- Fluent written and spoken English

This is not an exhaustive list, and you will be expected to be flexible in your approach to carrying out your duties, that may change from time to time to reflect changes in the Company's circumstances. This will include providing cover for colleagues as required. The Company therefore reserves the right to vary the job description in consultation with you.

All YouGov plc employees are expected to comply with the Company's policies, rules and procedures as outlined in the handbook, health and safety manual and all other publications.