LSE Kuwait Programme
Policy Research Workshop – Call for Applications

Title: *Researching Education Policy, Leadership, and Agency*
Date: 21-22 March 2027
Location: Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) HQ

Call for Applications

The LSE-Kuwait Programme is pleased to accept applications for a policy training workshop, titled *Researching Education Policy, Leadership, and Agency,* to be held in Kuwait from **21-22 March 2027.** The LSE Kuwait Programme is hosted at the LSE Middle East Centre and supported by the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS).

Abstract

Education is no more measured by literacy and numeracy only, but with more complex benchmarks that position education at the heart of social and economic development worldwide. Education drives growth; politically, socially, economically, and technologically. However, prevalent educational and social problems paralleled with the advancement of artificial intelligence present significant challenges to policy makers and practitioners and confirm that educational improvement is complex and multifaceted. These challenges require critical and innovative research methodologies that can offer a deeper understanding of the root causes underpinning educational problems globally and locally, and provide ethical and reliable outcomes that can enhance educational policy and practice.

This workshop focuses on education research on policy, leadership and agency can help researchers examine key educational challenges and the interaction between policy, leadership and the agency of actors in the education sector. The workshop will draw on global and culturally relevant frameworks and methodologies in these interconnected areas and offer insights for improving education in Kuwait and the region. Session 1, led by Nidal Al Haj Sleiman (LSE Middle East Centre, Kuwait Programme), will introduce key concepts, methods, and policy theories for understanding and analysing Kuwait's most pressing educational challenges. Session 2, led by Nidal Al Haj Sleiman and Mercedes Masters (LSE Middle East Centre, Kuwait Programme), focuses on policy writing and aims to help participants to transition their academic writing into a style that can shape and impact policy and policy making, develop the skills necessary to communicate with non-academic audiences, and particularly fora policy readership. It will offer general principles for effective writing and speaking in this different context.

Through interactive discussions and case study analysis, participants will engage with practical tools and skills to deconstruct challenges in education and engage with leadership and individual and collective agency research that can impact education policy in Kuwait. The workshop aims to foster dialogue among researchers, practitioners, and policymakers and to encourage critical conversations about the role of leadership and agency in advancing Kuwait's education policy and education outcomes.

Eligibility

- Applications are open to applicants coming from all backgrounds; however, priority is given to applicants researching or working in a field related to education, including policy, leadership, school improvement, management, assessment, pedagogy, inclusion, learning, equity, sociology of education, economics of education, education equity, and quality. Applications from candidates working in comparative education and cross-disciplinary approaches are also accepted.
- Applicants must be PhD or DPhil students, post-doctorates, or early-career researchers in Kuwaiti academic institutions; or equivalent professionals working in the relevant field, who wish to develop their research capacity and outputs, as well as gain a deeper understanding on policy relevance for sustainability research. On occasion, exceptional MA/MSc students are accepted to participate.
- Priority will be given to participants who are in the early stages of their career.
- Applicants must be nationals of Kuwait.

How to Apply

Applicants should submit a curriculum vitae, an abstract of their current research, and a 1-page cover letter explaining why you should be selected to participate in this workshop, highlighting your relevant research experience and how you would see this opportunity to advance your career development.

Please email these with the subject as "**Policy Research Workshop Application - NAME**" to Mercedes Masters, Kuwait Programme Manager at m.c.masters@lse.ac.uk by **Monday 18 January 2027.**