

Occasional Research Assistant (ORA)

Building Sustainable Societies Project

Atlantic Fellows for Social and Economic Equity (AFSEE), International Inequalities Institute (III), London School of Economics and Political Science

JOB DESCRIPTION

The Atlantic Fellows for Social and Economic Equity (AFSEE) programme, based within the International Inequalities Institute (III), is seeking a part-time, temporary, hourly-paid Occasional Research Assistant (ORA) to support a research project examining sustainability-related values and behaviours among university students. The appointment will begin in April 2026 for a period of six months.

The project is co-funded by the LSE–Tsinghua Research Sustainability Fund and forms part of the wider portfolio of LSE’s Global School of Sustainability. The ORA will join an international research team led by Dr Giannis Efthymiou (LSE) and Dr Kai Kuang (Tsinghua University).

Working closely with [Dr Efthymiou](#), the ORA will support both qualitative and quantitative components of a mixed-methods study exploring how personal values, institutional contexts, and media narratives shape students’ perceptions of responsibility, justice and engagement with climate issues. The role offers an excellent opportunity for an early-career researcher interested in sustainability, social values, and mixed-methods research to contribute to a collaborative, cross-cultural project.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The research assistant will support all stages of the research project, with a substantial focus on the qualitative phase. They will take a leading role in collecting qualitative data through interviews and focus group discussions conducted online via Zoom and will analyse these data using thematic analysis and software such as NVivo. In addition to the qualitative component, the ORA will contribute to the project’s quantitative stages, assisting with data collection and helping integrate findings from both methodological strands. The role also involves supporting the organisation of a project dissemination event to be held at the LSE in September 2026. Finally, the ORA will prepare a project research report in close collaboration with Dr Efthymiou.

DELIVERABLES [in order of priority]

- Independent, active contribution to qualitative data collection and analysis
- Support for quantitative stages of data collection
- Organisation of the project dissemination workshop (logistics, communication, partner coordination)
- Synthesis of findings from both phases and contribution to the project’s research report

PERSON SPECIFICATION

The ideal candidate will be proactive and capable of working independently, with knowledge of or a strong interest in sustainability-related research. They should have experience in research design and a solid understanding of ethical approaches to research. Strong, demonstrable skills in qualitative research – particularly interviews and focus groups – are essential for this role. A good grasp of quantitative methods is also highly desirable, as this will support the integration and synthesis of data in a mixed-methods design.

Candidates should have organisational and communication skills and be confident in communicating with external organisations verbally and in writing. They should be able to use software for qualitative analysis (e.g., NVivo) and have some quantitative research skills.

REMUNERATION

The position is paid on an hourly basis, no less than Band 5 Step 18 **£23.72** per hour (subject to experience and including accrued holiday pay). The role requires up to 7.5 hours per week (30 hours per month). Candidates should ideally be available for one day per week, although there is flexibility around working patterns, which can be agreed with Dr Efthymiou.

Applicants should indicate their availability to start between early and mid-April 2026. Please note that the role requires the successful candidate to be based in the UK and they may need to complete a right to work check on the LSE campus before starting.

If you are interested, please send a CV and a brief email outlining why you would be suitable for the post (max 500 words) to g.efthymiou@lse.ac.uk containing “ORA application” in the subject line as soon as possible, but no later than **Wednesday, 18 March 2026, 5 pm GMT**. Interviews with shortlisted applicants will take place virtually on either Thursday 26th March or Friday 27th March 2026.