

**GLOBAL MAJORITY HERITAGE FREELANCE RESEARCH ASSISTANT OPPORUNITY
SHORT-TERM, FIXED-FEE ROLE
STARTING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL ~DECEMBER 2026**

PROJECT INTRODUCTION

The Diocese of St Albans has awarded the Youthscape Centre for Research a grant for a project titled ‘Exploring Obstacles to Ministry Vocation’. The purpose of the project is to identify and analyse perceived and actual barriers preventing individuals — particularly those from Global Majority Heritage (GMH) backgrounds — from pursuing ministry within the Diocese. The research will take place across two phase: Phase 1 will include a literature review and interviews with adults who have pursued, considered, or discounted themselves from ministry vocation and Phase 2 will include case studies in 3 church communities with young people and other members of each church community, concluding with the development of co-created (with participants) recommendations. As a result, and in line with our commitment to safely listen and respond to the voices and experiences of GMH individuals, we are looking for a Freelance Researcher of GMH background with research experience to support the project.

YOUTHSCAPE AND THE CENTRE FOR RESEARCH

Youthscape works to see every young person in the UK reached with the transforming love of God. We believe that this will only be achieved through the renewal of the local church’s engagement with those young people; a church inspired and equipped with vision, research, skills and resources. As part of this, The Youthscape Centre for Research believes that innovation in youth work, and sustainable change for young people, requires reflective, rigorous, and theologically grounded research.

SCOPE OF THE WORK AND TIMELINE

The Freelance Research Assistant will be required to do the following:

May-June: Support the Principal Investigator (PI) with the literature review and support recruitment of case study locations and participants

May-June: Conduct up to 10 online, semi-structured interviews

June-July: Carry out case study visits – includes attendance at services / events / activities to observe and semi-structured interviews with young adults in the church community

July – September: Assist the PI with data analysis

September: Work with the PI to organise a group of participants who, alongside the Diocesan Racial Justice Officer, will co-create a set of actionable recommendations

October – November: Support the PI in producing a research report

December: Be involved in dissemination of the findings

(N.B. It is possible that this timeline will shift in accordance with time taken to recruit case studies and individual participants, meaning it is possible there will be some time required in the early parts of 2027. Please consider this when applying)

KEY SKILLS AND EXPECTATIONS

The researcher will need to be able to undertake ethnographic research in church communities, undertake online research interviews, and contribute to a literature review. Therefore, they will need to demonstrate previous experience in undertaking primary, qualitative research and skills in:

1. identifying and reviewing relevant literature
2. carrying out semi-structured interviews
3. conducting observations
4. analysing qualitative data
5. writing up research findings into a research report

It is also required to demonstrate awareness of ethics and ethical approaches to research with young people and other vulnerable individuals.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

In addition to the key skills and expectations outlined above, the additional essential criteria are outlined below:

1. There is an occupational requirement for the holder of this post to be of Global Majority Heritage
2. There is also an occupational requirement for the holder of this post to be a practicing Christian.
3. The post holder must also hold a full UK driving licence and a car that can be used for work as an independent means of transport.
4. The post holder must hold a clear Enhanced DBS certificate.

FEE ARRANGEMENTS

A fee of £3,000 will be paid into a nominated bank account, spread across three payments over the duration of the contract. In addition, travel expenses, in accordance with the Youthscape expenses policy, can be claimed each week.

HOW TO APPLY

Please email a CV (which includes links to any work that you have published and/or been involved in), Covering Letter, and video introduction, along with your completed Equality and Diversity form to research@youthscape.co.uk addressed to Hannah Bowden by **Midday on Monday 11 May 2026**. Dependent upon number of applications, it may be necessary for an informal conversation to take place to be able to decide the most suitable applicant.