



Request for expression of interest: Field researchers for multi-country research study on Older People's Associations in East and SE Asia

Applicants should have a strong background in social sciences with qualitative research skills and a proven interest in ageing or development.

Project Information

The study is a collaboration between the Oxford Institute of Population Ageing (OIPA) at the University of Oxford and HelpAge International. The aim is to assess the impact of Older People's Associations (OPAs) on the wellbeing of older people in four countries: Cambodia, China, Myanmar and Vietnam.

The core research for the study will be fieldwork in the selected study countries with (i) visits to a sample of OPAs in each country, and (ii) visits to a small number of communities that will function as 'controls'. These communities will all have functioning OPAs established with support by HelpAge International. Information on the work of OPAs will be collected by means of (i) focus and semi-structured interviews (ii) a questionnaire for OPA 'gatekeepers' (iii) collation of administrative data on past and present OPAs. The study will be planned and supervised by senior research staff at the Oxford Institute of Population Ageing. It is commissioned by Age International, HelpAge International and WHO, (WPRO).

Field researchers will receive induction in the work of OPAs from HelpAge International. They will also receive training (a) in the use of interview protocols from the Senior Researcher, and (b) in appropriate formats for recording data and compiling reports. They will accompany the Senior Researcher for approximately one week for initial field visits and expert informant interviews. For the rest of the time of their employment, they will conduct the field *without* direct support from the Senior Researcher. Support will be provided by HelpAge International.

Duration of appointment

These are short-term posts for approx 15 weeks, tentatively from May 15

Budget

The local consultant will be paid 200 GBP for each week

Responsibilities/duties

- To undertake qualitative research (focus groups and semi-structured interviews) in selected sites in the study countries.
- To work alongside researchers from the Oxford Institute of Population Ageing and staff from HelpAge International.
- To work with staff from HelpAge International to set up field visits.
- To collect and record data from field visits.
- To liaise by Skype (or other means) with Senior Researcher based in Oxford.
- To prepare reports in English on field visits in formats specified by researchers from the Oxford Institute of Population Ageing.
- To accompany research staff from the Oxford Institute of Population Ageing on field visits and act as translator.
- To accompany research staff from the Oxford Institute of Population Ageing in interviews with expert informants and act as translator.

Selection criteria

Essential

- High level of spoken and written English
- Fluency in local language
- Graduate degree at PhD level in social science discipline (completed or soon to complete)
- Experience of qualitative research in relevant discipline
- Understanding of data collection and storage
- Ability to record and communicate complex and nuanced information
- Ability to work independently on research projects
- Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with academics, administrators, government officials, and the general public
- Good organizational skills
- Ability to co-ordinate and liaise with leading experts and overseas scholars
- Ability to communicate effectively – preparation of report and related documents.

Desirable

- Experience of conducting focus groups
- Demonstrated achievement in participation of research projects

Requirement for application

All applicants should apply in writing with a supporting full CV. The application letter (in English) should explain their suitability for the post. Two referees should be provided, and references will be obtained for all applicants called for interview. Applicants should not be current employees of HelpAge. Please send your application to thuytb@helpagevn.org at the latest date of **23 April 2015**. However please note applications will be assessed on a rolling basis

