



Community Based Researcher

Nourish Scotland – Dundee Public Diner Pilot Project

Location: Dundee - MAXwell Centre and Garden

Employment: Part-time (1 day/week, flexible)

Duration: A commitment to 3 years fixed-term

Pay: £13.23/hour (8 hours per week)

About You

As a community researcher, you will be the essential bridge between the community and the project, bringing community insights and experiences forward with empathy, respect, and clarity. We are looking for someone passionate about listening, representing, and amplifying these perspectives to ensure the project truly reflects the needs and realities of local people. Your commitment to being embedded in this impactful work and to co-creating change alongside the community is what will make this role successful and rewarding. We believe research participants are at the heart of the DISHED (Designing innovative Infrastructure for Sustainable, Healthy & Equitable Diets) project. Your experiences and perspectives will directly shape the research and its outcomes.'

Full Training and ongoing support will be provided.

About the Project

The 3-year DISHED (Designing innovative Infrastructure for Sustainable, Healthy & Equitable Diets) project is testing a simple idea: can public restaurants promote healthier, more sustainable food systems and support local economies?

Public restaurants could one day be part of everyday life, just like libraries or public transport, offering universal access to nutritious, affordable meals in welcoming, social spaces. To make this a reality, it's crucial to work with the local communities.

Therefore, we're working with communities to run a Dundee pilot scheme to find out. The pilot will:

- Be shaped by residents, including families, young people, businesses, community groups and local government.
- Offer good local jobs and opportunities for training in hospitality.
- Work with sustainable and ethical UK food producers.



- Build on community-led research about how families access affordable, food.
- Be assessed on real-world impact, from health to the economy to the environment.
- Build on tried and tested evidence of what works, including international experience in public restaurants.

Your role will be to engage in community research to understand the current 'food worlds' of research participants, and to help us understand how these experiences change through attending the Public Restaurants. You'll be one of two community researchers in Dundee and you'll recruit and work alongside 30 residents each to build up that evidence. This role connects community research with academic contribution. You will work directly with Dundee residents to explore food access and eating habits, while also supporting the project's academic outputs, with options to participate in authorship and conferences.

Purpose of the Role

Main Responsibilities

- Attend training activities to become conversant in community-based, creative research methods (semi-structured interviews, photovoice, go-alongs).
- Build trusting, empathetic relationships using respectful, non-stigmatizing communication.
- Clearly explain the project to encourage involvement without judgment.
- Collect, record, and manage data ethically and accurately, in conjunction with the research team.
- Collaborate with the other community researcher and research team, attending meetings and training.
- Share ideas to improve the project's approach and community relevance.
- Support academic outputs by providing insights and feedback.
- Present findings back to local communities accessibly and meaningfully, in conjunction with the research team.

Essential and Desirable Qualities

Essential Qualities	Desirable Qualities
Resident of Dundee	Experience in community work, volunteering, or activism
Empathy and collaborative communication skills including non-judgmental research approaches	Lived experience of food insecurity or related challenges
Ability to uphold the ethos and ethics of the project including rules on GDPR, confidentiality, and safeguarding	Knowledge of local food systems or public health initiatives
Understanding of the needs and priorities of local Dundee communities and a commitment to working with diverse communities at a grassroots level	Interest in food systems, cultures, and wellbeing.
Skills in relating to a range of people and groups with capacity to encourage, persuade and support community participation	Understanding of how teams work effectively and basic group dynamics
Commitment to inclusive, non-stigmatizing communication	Ability to speak additional local languages (e.g. Polish, Urdu, Arabic, Romanian).
Able to input into DISHED meetings and stakeholder events as needed.	Interest in attending academic and community research events and co-presenting findings with academic partners.
Flexible to work approx. 8 hours/week, tracking time but with the understanding there will be busier periods during training and data collection.	
Good note-taking and basic IT skills (email, Word, Excel)	



Job Details

- Part-time: 2 day/week (approx. 16 hours), November 25-Jan 26 then 1 day/week (approx. 8 Hours) flexible scheduling.
- £13.23/hour for all work including training, meetings, and reporting
- Recruiting and researching with 30 research participants.
- Full training and ongoing support tailored to your capacities and the project needs.
- Monthly meetings with line manager and regular team catch-ups.
- Opportunities to contribute to academic outputs, including authorship and conference attendance (optional)
- Fixed-term 3-year contract.

How to Apply

For more details of our Organisation please follow the link to our website:

www.maxdundee.org.uk

Please send your CV and a covering letter explaining how you meet each criteria of the person specification to: agmaxinfo@gmail.com

The closing date for applications is: **21st October 2025**