

## REFUGEE RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY IN LEBANON

The [Local Engagement Refugee Research Network](http://www.carleton.ca/lerrn) (LERRN) is a team of researchers and practitioners committed to promoting protection and solutions with and for refugees. Through collaborative research, training, and knowledge-sharing we aim to improve the functioning of the global refugee regime and ensure more timely protection and rights-based solutions for refugees.

With the support from the [Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council](http://www.sshrc.gc.ca) (SSHRC), we have funding to finance collaborative research projects, undertaken by a graduate student from one of our partner Canadian universities (Carleton, McGill, uOttawa and York) and a student selected by our Geographic Working Groups in Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon and Tanzania.

**We are now accepting applications for research placements in Lebanon. Registered post-graduate students at Carleton University, McGill University, the University of Ottawa and York University are encouraged to apply.**

Please see application details below.

<b>GEOGRAPHIC WORKING GROUP (GWG)</b>	Lebanon
<b>GWG LEAD</b>	Maha Shuayb, <a href="#">Centre for Lebanese Studies</a> , Lebanese American University
<b>AREA OF FOCUS</b>	Education and Repatriation
<b>LOCATION FOR RESEARCH</b>	Beirut, Lebanon
<b>DATES OF FIELDWORK:</b>	6 weeks (June and July 2020)
<b>RESEARCH OBJECTIVES AND QUESTIONS</b>	
<p>Repatriation is one of the three traditional durable solutions for refugees. As detailed in global refugee policy, including UNHCR's 1996 <i>Handbook on Voluntary Repatriation</i>, repatriation should be voluntary, planned and implemented in a way that safeguards the rights of refugees, and ensures meaningful consultation with refugee communities.</p> <p>Education is one of a range of issues that need to be taken into consideration when planning for repatriation to avoid gaps in primary and secondary education. Given the range of factors and interests that condition discussions on repatriation, however, there is often significant variation in the extent to which global policies that promote access to education in the context of repatriation are implemented. This is especially true in the contested period when the possibility of repatriation is discussed by political actors in the absence of a resolution to the conflict in the country of origin. This uncertainty can influence choices relating to education made by refugees, local authorities, NGOs and other actors. Despite the significance of these issues, the relationship between discussions on repatriation, education policy, and practice remains poorly understood.</p> <p>To address this gap, the <a href="#">Centre for Lebanese Studies</a> is undertaking a research pilot to examine if and how discussions relating to the repatriation of Syrian refugees from Lebanon affects refugee</p>	

education policy and practice. In support of this pilot, this **sub-project will support the collection of qualitative data, draft a review of the literature on the relationship between repatriation and education, and conduct key stakeholder interviews in Lebanon to understand how key actors understand the relationship between repatriation and education.**

## RESEARCH METHODS

1. **Key stakeholder interviews** with representatives of host and donor governments, international organizations (such as UN agencies), NGOs and other actors to document their understanding of the relationship between repatriation and education
2. **Literature review** on the relationship between repatriation and education
3. **Mapping of relevant policy frameworks** (global, regional and national) that relate to education policy and practice in the context of repatriation

## EXPECTED TIMELINE

The fieldwork schedule will be developed in consultation with the Lebanon Working Group, but is expected to last for a 6-week period in Lebanon between June and July 2020.

## RESEARCH CONTEXT

For an overview of the refugee context in Lebanon, see: <https://www.unhcr.org/lb/>

## SUPPORT PROVIDED

LERRN will cover the following costs for the successful candidate:

- Economy round-trip airfare to Lebanon
- Necessary domestic travel for the purposes of the project
- Modest accommodation costs and a stipend for meals for a maximum of six weeks
- The cost of visa, research permit and vaccinations necessary for travel to Lebanon

The Lebanon Working Group will provide support for:

- Reception and orientation in Beirut
- Supervision and mentorship during the fieldwork portion of the sub-project
- Administrative and logistical support for the in-country process of securing research permits and facilitating necessary travel and logistical arrangements

## PARTNER STUDENT

The successful student will collaborate with the project team in Lebanon, including students associated with the Centre for Lebanese Studies at the Lebanese American University. Students are expected to collaborate on all aspects of the research, including preparation, fieldwork, and writing preliminary results.

## ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to apply, candidates must:

- Be a registered post-graduate student at Carleton University, McGill University, the University of Ottawa and York University, until 31 December 2020
- Have the ability to work and conduct research interviews in Arabic

Preference will be given to candidates with research and/or practical background in issues relating to refugee youth, education, and refugee policy relating to education and repatriation.

## PARTICIPANT OBLIGATIONS

Students selected for a Research Placement will commit to:

- Attend mandatory training in Ottawa prior to departure (costs supported by LERRN)
- Use the LERRN Template Ethics Protocol to secure necessary ethics clearance from their university by 30 April 2020
- Complete the following background preparation by May 2020:
  - Readings on theoretical and methodological foundations (to be provided)
  - Preliminary desk research on case study and issue area
  - Prepare a short presentation on their research to be presented during the training sessions in Ottawa
- Participate in a post-fieldwork self-evaluation and debrief session by 31 October 2020
- Comply with permit and insurance requirements and a sign code of conduct
- Contribute to knowledge mobilization through:
  - Submitting a blog posting during fieldwork
  - Giving a presentation to local partners at the end of fieldwork
  - Uploading fieldwork notes and data prior to the end of fieldwork
  - Co-authoring a working paper with a member of the Lebanon Working Group by 31 December 2020
  - Being available to present research findings at the LERRN Annual Meeting the following year (typically in May)
- Obtain required visa and vaccinations
- Having a passport valid for 12 months following the proposed end of fieldwork

It is **recommended** that students be certified in basic first-aid before departing for fieldwork

## APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Submit the following to [LERRN@carleton.ca](mailto:LERRN@carleton.ca) by **9am EST, Monday, 24 February 2020**  
(reference: 'RPP: Lebanon – Repatriation')

- CV
- 250 word statement on your approach to the proposed research
- 250 word statement on your suitability for the position, including a description of previous relevant experience
- Name of a faculty supervisor who can confirm the applicant is registered in a post-graduate program at Carleton University, McGill University, the University of Ottawa or York University

- Shortlisted candidates will be asked to provide a letter of reference from their faculty supervisor, which speaks to the candidate's suitability for the placement and confirming that the candidate will be supported to complete the above participant obligations

**Interviews will be conducted by Skype or at your home university in early-March 2020. Successful candidates will be notified by 31 March 2020**