

REFUGEE RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY IN LEBANON

The [Local Engagement Refugee Research Network](#) (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 of funding from the [Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council](#) (SSHRC), we have funding to support 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.

GEOGRAPHIC WORKING GROUP (GWG)	Lebanon
GWG LEAD	Maha Shuayb, Centre for Lebanese Studies, Lebanese American University
AREA OF FOCUS	Youth Engagement
LOCATION FOR RESEARCH	Beirut and surrounding regions, Lebanon
RESEARCH OBJECTIVES AND QUESTIONS	
One of the main shortcoming in the education for refugees is that it is embedded in a humanitarian logic and that most education interventions tend to be short-term. With the absence of a vision for a better future, education becomes a very costly and risky investment for most refugee families. Besides, employment initiatives and livelihoods programming in Lebanon and Jordan are often implemented without a thorough analysis and understanding of what is needed in terms of the restrictions associated with the refugee status, how refugees with varying status may be integrated into the labour market, and what the potential pathways may be. In response, the Centre for Lebanese Studies is leading a series of research initiatives in Lebanon and Jordan to inform policy around what kind of interventions related to education provisions and rights associated with status can influence and promote better employment opportunities for different groups of young people in a refugee crisis context. This will be achieved through: 1) analyzing trajectories from education to employment of young refugees and vulnerable young nationals with different legal and socio-economic statuses in Lebanon and Jordan; 2) advocacy measures involving youth; 3) public awareness. In support of this initiative, this sub-project will map the range of actors and interests that condition the impact of refugee and national youth advocacy, support the planning of a youth advocacy workshop, and co-author a working paper on best practices for youth advocacy with Lebanese and Jordanian counterparts.	

RESEARCH METHODS

1. Qualitative interviews and focus groups with refugee and national youth
2. Elite interviews with representatives of host and donor governments, international organizations (such as UN agencies), NGOs and other civil society actors to understand the actors and interests that condition the impact of youth advocacy

EXPECTED TIMELINE

Fieldwork schedule to be developed in consultation with the Lebanon Working Group, but is expected to last for an 8-week period in Lebanon between June and July 2019.

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 and a stipend for meals for a maximum of eight 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 making 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, from 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 2019
- 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 youth mobilization, refugee youth, and refugee policy processes.

PARTICIPANT OBLIGATIONS

Students selected for a Research Placement will commit to:

- Attend mandatory training (costs supported by LERRN):
 - 6-9 May 2019 in Toronto
 - 27-31 May 2019 in Ottawa
- Use the LERRN Template Ethics Protocol to secure necessary ethics clearance from their university by 30 April 2019
- Complete the following background preparation by May 2019 (with support of a faculty supervisor at their home university)
 - Readings on theoretical and methodological foundations (to be provided)
 - Desk research on case study and issue area
 - Prepare a short presentation on their research to be presented during the training sessions in Ottawa at the end of May
- Participate in a post-fieldwork self-evaluation and debrief session by 31 October 2019
- Comply with permit and insurance requirements and sign code of conduct
- Contribute to knowledge mobilization through:
 - Submitting a blog posting during fieldwork
 - Give a presentation to local partners at end of fieldwork
 - Upload fieldwork notes and data prior to end of fieldwork
 - Co-author a working paper with partner student by 31 December 2019
 - Be available to present research findings at the LERRN Annual Meeting the following year (typically in May)
- Obtain required visa and vaccinations
- Have 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

DEADLINE EXTENDED

Submit the following to LERRN@carleton.ca by 1pm EST, Friday, 01 March 2019
(reference: 'RPP: Lebanon – Youth Engagement')

- 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
- Letter of support from a faculty supervisor, including confirmation that you are registered in a post-graduate program at Carleton University, McGill University, the University of Ottawa or York University and that you will be supported by your supervisor at your home university to complete the above Participant Obligations

Interviews will be conducted by Skype or at your home university in mid-March 2019.
Successful candidates will be notified by 31 March 2019.