



SPECIFIC JOB PROFILE

I. Post Information

POST NUMBER/ CASE NUMBER: 130955
POST/CASE NUMBER OF SUPERVISOR:
00118938/ Senior Adviser Innovation
(Learning Hub), P5
REASON FOR CLASSIFICATION:
REGION/DIVISION: OOI
COUNTRY: Remote Helsinki, Finland
DU TY STATION: Global Learning
Innovation Hub
OFFICE: OOI
SECTION:
UNIT:

CATEGORY: Temporary Appointment (TA)
PROPOSED LEVEL: P3
JOB TITLE: Innovation Specialist
Functional Code:
ICSC CCOG Code:

II. Strategic office context and purpose for the job

UNICEF works in some of the world's toughest places, to reach the world's most disadvantaged children. To save their lives. To defend their rights. To help them fulfil their potential.

Across 190 countries and territories, we work for every child, everywhere, every day, to build a better world for everyone. And we never give up.

Yet the current pace of progress for children will not get us to children-related SDGs targets. This, if left unaddressed, will leave tens of million children behind. Unprotected. Uneducated. Unfed. Unable to reach their full potential.

For every child, hope . . .

The Office of Innovation (OOI) works to catalyse UNICEF's and all its partners' expertise and resources to solve key challenges for children, with a view to continuously ideate and scale the most effective solutions with transformational potential at scale to achieve the child-related SDGs.

The office is doing this by continuously exploring new ways of accelerating results for children, investing across a range of early stage solutions, and harnessing internal and external expertise towards continuously iterating and finetuning the most promising solutions for children through a systematic portfolio management approach, and leveraging all stakeholders'

innovation energy, knowhow and resources from intergovernmental, multilateral, private sector and non-governmental fora (think tank, academia).

For every child, learning...

The UNICEF Global Learning Innovation Hub (Hub) will be the home of the architects of the future of learning. The office is in Helsinki and supported by the Government of Finland, a global leader in education and technology, with the goal of bringing together the global community to build game changing solutions in education, that can help solve the learning crisis as well as imagine and develop alternative learning futures for all children.

The ambition of the Hub is to disrupt the education community by:

- **Creating a safe playground** to reimagine UNICEF “business as usual” with thought provoking research, new radical collaborations and alternative roads to scale.
- **Bringing new solutions** to life by co-designing and testing products, programmes, policies and acceleration vehicles for untapped opportunities in EdTech.
- **Inviting non-traditional actors** from tech entrepreneurs and business leaders, to artists, fiction writers, researchers and thought leaders and designers to join the learning community in building alternative learning futures for all children.

Strategic office context:

This position is embedded in UNICEF’s Office of Innovation, focusing on the Global Learning Innovation Hub's objective of fostering accessible, inclusive, and equitable education globally. The office's priorities include driving initiatives that leverage digital innovation to support educational outcomes and strengthening partnerships to scale these innovations.

You will work under the supervision of the Senior Adviser (Learning Hub) as an innovation specialist and coordinator to establish a future-looking Think Tank, fostering a space for collaboration and knowledge exchange that drives impactful insights, analyses, and thought leadership on key issues shaping the future of learning and digital transformation of education systems. You are expected to build learning and evidence from the learning innovation portfolio and create new knowledge that unlocks paths towards digital transformation in education, leveraging partnerships across different sectors and aligned with the Learning Innovation Hub’s and OOI’s strategic goals. You will also supervise consultants and take OIC roles.

III. Key functions, accountabilities and related duties/tasks:

Under the overall supervision of the Senior Adviser Innovation Learning Hub, this position will:

1. Establish a Think Tank that fosters and promotes internal and external knowledge exchange, serving as a hub for thought leadership, and engaging in strategic foresight and policy development. This Think Tank will leverage partnerships across diverse sectors, with a strong focus on frontier technology, disability, gender and other key dimensions of inclusion. The collaborative network will include tech entrepreneurs, business leaders, artists, writers, researchers, designers, thought leaders, industry

experts, NGOs, and UN agencies, enhancing our impact and promoting cross-sectoral insights.

2. Support the design and implementation of the research portion of the "Make it happen" stages in the Blue Unicorn Farm (pilot + accelerate + scale), including identifying key trends, challenges, and opportunities within the sector to inform strategic decision-making and innovative approaches.
3. Promote internal and external knowledge exchange and develop thought-provoking publications, reports, and presentations, in collaboration with UNICEF Innocenti, PG-Education and other stakeholders, that inspire global community and influence policy and decision-makers in both public and private sectors.

1. Establish a Think Tank that fosters and promotes internal and external knowledge exchange, serving as a hub for thought leadership, and engaging in strategic foresight and policy development. This Think Tank will leverage partnerships across diverse sectors, with a strong focus on frontier technology, disability, gender and other key dimensions of inclusion. The collaborative network will include tech entrepreneurs, business leaders, artists, writers, researchers, designers, thought leaders, industry experts, NGOs, and UN agencies, enhancing our impact and promoting cross-sectoral insights.

- Work with the Partnership Specialist to secure and strengthen collaborations with tech entrepreneurs, business leaders, artists, researchers, academic institutions, UN agencies, and NGOs as part of the establishment of a Think Tank.
- Foster an environment of collaboration and knowledge exchange, leveraging partners' expertise to co-create innovative solutions that advance the Hub's initiatives. Coordinate closely with internal divisions including Child Protection, Disability and Development, Education, ICTD, Office of Innovation, and Innocenti Global Office of Research and Foresight, as well as regional and country levels on knowledge exchange and management, research initiatives, and publications.
- Foster collaboration and knowledge exchange to drive innovation and contribute to key initiatives such as "Gateways to Public Digital Learning".
- Serve as UNICEF's representative as needed in collaborative efforts with knowledge partners, including other UN agencies such as UNESCO, to promote inter-agency cooperation and maximize impact.
- Network with key partners and thought leaders to reflect on new learning futures and influence both private and public sectors leveraging UNICEF's EdTech for Good Framework.
- Lead the organization of webinars with external experts as part of UNICEF's internal Reimagine Education Community of Practice and support other efforts to build internal staff capacity on digital education and emerging technologies.
- Develop an insight generation roadmap to translate the findings from the Think Tank into actionable inputs for other Hub initiatives.
- Lead on writing briefing notes and talking points for senior management, coordinating with relevant colleagues in PG-Education and across divisions.

2. Support the design and implementation of the research portion of the Discovery and "Make it happen" stages in the Blue Unicorn Farm (pilot+accelerate+scale) and Learning Pioneers Programme, including identifying key trends, challenges, and opportunities within the sector to inform strategic decision-making and innovative approaches.

- Gather and analyze data from a wide range of sources, including global trends, policy developments, and technological advancements in countries and regions and prepare a global/regional/national landscape analyses, trends updates and think pieces to inform the Learning Pioneers Programme.
- Engage with key stakeholders, including educators, policymakers, and industry leaders, to validate findings and gain diverse perspectives that enrich the various analyses, trends updates and think pieces.
- Develop actionable insights and recommendations based on the analysis to guide strategic decision-making.

3. Promote internal and external knowledge exchange and develop thought-provoking publications, reports, and presentations, in collaboration with UNICEF Innocenti, PG-Education and other stakeholders, that inspire global community and influence policy and decision-makers in both public and private sectors.

- Synthesize complex research findings into clear, compelling publications and presentations that resonate with diverse audiences, including policymakers, educators, and the general public.
- Support UNICEF’s work on building the capacity of teachers, including through further development and expansion of the Superstar Teacher Toolbox.
- Synthesizing key findings, insights, and recommendations from the Learning Innovation Hub’s portfolio of research.
- Work closely with UNICEF Innocenti and other stakeholders to co-author reports and papers that reflect the latest research and insights on learning futures and digital transformation.
- Design and implement strategies for wide dissemination of publications and presentations through conferences, workshops, digital platforms, and media outlets with a Communication Specialist.
- Supervise technical strategic design experts that will support the Hub’s work, including the integration of human-centered design approaches in the various workstreams.

IV. Impact of Results

The Innovation Specialist contributions are crucial in achieving the Learning Innovation Hub's mission, enhancing its effectiveness, and fostering innovation. By driving cutting-edge research and fostering strategic partnerships across diverse sectors, the Innovation Manager will contribute to shaping the future of global education. This role will influence both public and private sectors to prioritize equitable, digital learning opportunities. The Innovation Manager’s work will not only enhance UNICEF’s capacity to pioneer educational innovation but also catalyze systemic change, empowering educators, policymakers, and communities worldwide to embrace new learning futures that are inclusive, dynamic, and impactful.

V. Competencies and level of proficiency required

UNICEF's Core Values of Care, Respect, Integrity, Trust and Accountability underpin everything we do and how we do it. Our Values Charter: <https://uni.cf/UNICEFValues>

View our competency framework at http://www.unicef.org/about/employ/files/UNICEF_Competencies.pdf

i) Core Values attributes

- Care
- Respect
- Integrity
- Trust
- Accountability

ii Core Competencies (For Staff with Supervisory Responsibilities) *

- Nurtures, Leads and Manages People (1)
- Demonstrates Self Awareness and Ethical Awareness (2)
- Works Collaboratively with others (2)
- Builds and Maintains Partnerships (2)
- Innovates and Embraces Change (2)
- Thinks and Acts Strategically (2)
- Drive to achieve impactful results (2)
- Manages ambiguity and complexity (2)

*The 7 core competencies are applicable to all employees. However, the competency Nurtures, Leads and Managers people is only applicable to staff who supervise others.

VI. Technical Competencies

Technical competencies must be demonstrated in the following areas:

- **Strong technical skills in collaboration and partnership building.** The Innovation Manager will influence both public and private sectors to prioritize equitable, digital learning opportunities. The role is expected not only to enhance UNICEF's capacity to pioneer educational innovation but also to catalyze systemic change, empowering educators, policymakers, and communities worldwide to embrace new learning futures that are inclusive, dynamic, and impactful.
- **Robust analytical and critical thinking.** This can involve implementing design-thinking methodologies, including defining problem statements, prototyping, empathizing with users, and ideating solutions.
- **Ability to generate innovate ideas and stimulate the creativity of others.** The Innovation Specialist is expected to develop and apply novel approaches to educational research and solution design, challenging conventional thinking.
- **Excellent project management skills** to help organize, plan, and execute initiatives. This includes creating realistic timelines, allocating resources, and collaborating with team members to deliver projects within projected deadlines and budgets.

VI. Recruitment Qualifications	
Education:	An advanced university degree (Master's or higher) in social sciences, education or other relevant field.
Experience:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Minimum 5 years experience in applicable fields, such as education, research and partnerships. ● Proven experience managing international projects in education, social sciences, or a related field, with diverse stakeholders and partners. ● Proven ability in research in the education sector, social sciences, or a related field. ● Demonstrated ability to build and maintain strategic partnerships with the private sectors, especially tech companies, academic institutions, NGOs, UN agencies, and governments. ● Experience (co-)authoring international publications in the area of education. ● Previous experience working for the UN is an asset. ● Previous teaching experience is an asset. ● Experience working in the field of disability inclusion is an asset.
Language Requirements:	Fluency in English is required. Knowledge and fluency of another UN language is an asset.