

Childlight Global Data Fellow Programme

About Childlight:

Childlight is a global child safety research centre hosted by the University of Edinburgh, with research hubs across the world. We take a data-driven approach to understand and illuminate the true prevalence and nature of child sexual exploitation and abuse (CSEA) globally. This evidence base is used to catalyse and drive transformational and sustainable change so that more children across the world can be protected from sexual exploitation and abuse.

The Global Data Fellow Programme:

The GDF programme is a global community of mid-career professionals working to strengthen child protection through data and evidence. The hybrid programme is designed to enhance CSEA expertise, foster cross-sector collaboration, and support innovative, high-impact research.

GDFs gain access to expert networks, advanced resources, and tailored learning opportunities that enable them to:

- Address complex challenges in CSEA research and data
- Collaborate on high-impact, cross-sector initiatives
- Translate data into actionable insights to improve child safety worldwide

"The Childlight Global Data Fellows Programme opened up possibilities in the field of child sexual abuse and exploitation research to me. I am learning directly from other researchers, gaining insights into the work behind the studies, acquiring different perspectives, and finding ways of working with data that I can adapt in my setting".

Sandra Hernandez, National Institute of Health, Philippines

Candidate Criteria:

We welcome expressions of interest from mid-level professionals working to protect children, across sectors such as government, civil society, technology, and academia. Ideal candidates are passionate about child protection, eager to learn, and interested in advancing the use of data and research to address CSEA.

Scope of Programme:

The GDF programme offers a year-long, structured experience designed to deepen CSEA expertise, facilitate networking, and amplify the impact of GDF work. GDFs benefit from the following opportunities:

- Edinburgh residency: Attend a one-week training at the University of Edinburgh
- Thematic workshops: Participate in online workshops addressing critical CSEA issues
- Research symposium: Share and present your work to the Childlight network
- Publishing opportunities: Contribute to high-impact publications with global visibility
- Global network: Connect with a diverse community of child protection professionals and academics
- Exclusive insights: Access early updates and briefings on Childlight research and data
- Alumni network: Remain connected to the Childlight community beyond the fellowship year

Funding:

The standard GDF position is unpaid and intended as a collaboration between Childlight, the GDF, and their home organisation. As such, confirmation of organisational consent is required for participation.

Childlight provides financial support for GDFs to attend the Edinburgh residency, covering:

- Round-trip travel from the GDF's country of residence to Edinburgh, UK
- Accommodation for the duration of the residency
- Daily meals during the residency

If additional financial support is required to facilitate your participation, you will have the opportunity to discuss possible arrangements with the programme team upon selection.

GDF Commitments:

To participate in the programme, GDFs agree to:

- Collaborate on Childlight research, publications, and activities as mutually agreed
- Contribute to events, discussions, and knowledge exchange opportunities
- Represent Childlight's mission and values
- Handle data ethically and in line with Childlight's data-sharing and research integrity policies
- Promptly report any safeguarding risks in line with Childlight's established procedures

Contact:

For questions or further information, please contact Robin Alexander, Global Data Fellows Programme Manager: robin.alexander@ed.ac.uk