

# Professional bodies and supporting highly-skilled refugees into employment

Image

A group of refugees meeting having a conversation in an informal setting

Refugees may be highly qualified and experienced professionals, yet many remain unemployed or under employed, in a lower-grade occupation than their skills merit. This has consequences for these individuals, but also the UK economy where there are many areas of skills shortage. Mainstream employment and refugee support organisations lack the specialised knowledge to help these individuals, knowledge which is the basis of professional bodies and their members.

This project sought to produce a research-informed review of the policies and activities of professional bodies to support refugees into employment in their disciplines, to understand current issues, barriers, and provision, and to provide recommendations to assist professional bodies in developing their practice. Three approaches were taken:

- A scoping review of global literature on highly skilled migrants and professional bodies
- A review of websites and relevant activities of a sample of professional bodies in the UK to evaluate some of the support currently available
- Interviews and discussions with key informants, including professional body representatives and related organisations, refugee and employment support organisations, and refugees with a professional background themselves

[Professional bodies and supporting highly-skilled refugees into employment report.docx](#)  
[Supporting highly-skilled refugees into employment - a guide for professional bodies.docx](#)

Dr John Willott

Leeds Beckett University

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Logo for Asylum Migration and Integration Fund

Logo for Refugee Integration Yorkshire and Humber

## Contact us about research

If you have any questions about our research, contact us:  
[research@migrationyorkshire.org.uk](mailto:research@migrationyorkshire.org.uk)

0113 378 8188

## **Other research studies**

Building the foundations for social connections in Yorkshire and the Humber

Making strides - refugees' employment trajectories in Y&H

Homeward bound - the housing transitions of refugees

ESOL needs analysis and placement for refugee learners: a toolkit for providers

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