



It starts with a story...

Email: info@nalibali.org **Website:** www.nalibali.org **Twitter:** @nalibaliSA **Facebook:** nalibaliSA

Research & Advocacy Lead: Nal'ibali Trust
Duration: 1 year contract

Background

The Nal'ibali Trust is a national reading-for-enjoyment campaign that seeks to spark and sustain a culture of reading, through advocacy, training, partnerships, and high-quality reading material.

This is a new role that seeks to strengthen advocacy and policy work; project design and implementation; public communication; and collaboration.

The role is a one-year contract starting in **May 2019**, based in **Cape Town** or **Johannesburg**. The position is dependent on donor funding, with potential to extend when funding is renewed.

Key responsibilities

Research

- Review and synthesize relevant research to strengthen project design and implementation, improve Nal'ibali's strategic positioning, and increase impact.
- Share lessons from research with Nal'ibali's internal team and volunteer network, to strengthen awareness and expertise.

Advocacy

- Shape and drive Nal'ibali's advocacy agenda and strategy.
- Collaborate with and hold government accountable for commitments made to strengthen reading, education and early childhood development programmes.
- Build, lead and support coalitions and working groups, to drive decisive action around reading for enjoyment and mother tongue literacy in the early years.

Communication

- Distil Nal'ibali's own and other relevant research into accessible, bite-sized briefs for partners and the public.
- Contribute to framing of Nal'ibali's mass media messaging and strategy.
- Contribute to organizational thought leadership by writing op-eds; participating in media interviews; and presenting and leading discussions in conferences, workshops and forums.

Collaboration

- Convene and contribute to Nal'ibali advisory committee sessions.
- With managing director and general manager of operations, identify and pursue new opportunities for strategic partnerships with government and private sector actors.
- Align Nal'ibali's work with complementary, child-focused sectors and initiatives (e.g. nutrition and child protection).
- Bring together unlikely actors to identify and seize opportunities to unblock systemic obstacles to a flourishing reading culture.

Nal'ibali (isiXhosa for "here's the story") is a national reading-for-enjoyment campaign to spark children's potential through storytelling and reading. Nal'ibali was initiated by the DG Murray Trust and PRAESA (The Project for the Study of Alternative Education in South Africa) in 2012 and continues to work alongside these anchor partners to grow a love of books and stories in all South African languages.





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Person spec:

We are looking for:

- An **independent and driven self-starter**, able to identify opportunities and work proactively and independently.
- A **creative and critical thinker**, who is intrinsically motivated to tackle wicked problems and dig for answers.
- A **networker and collaborator**, who can bring different actors together to work towards common goals.
- A **politically savvy person with “street smarts”**, who can engage well at a grassroots level and in the boardroom, with a nose for how political developments, budgets and national conversations both enable and constrain our work.
- A **clear, persuasive and compelling communicator**, who can develop and adapt hard-hitting, factual content for various audiences (from academics and policy wonks to parents and practitioners).
- A **strategic and analytical person**, who can both see the big picture and wrestle with detail.
- A **focused, efficient person**, able to meet deadlines in a fast-paced environment, with strong time management skills.
- A **team player**, with well-developed interpersonal and communication skills.

Requirements:

- Relevant Honours or Masters degree, or equivalent work experience.
- Proven track record of effective advocacy experience.
- At least 5 years’ relevant experience in government, policy, non-profit programme development and delivery, the education sector, and/or research.
- Excellent English writing and communication skills, with experience writing for the general public.
- Good research skills, including:
 - o Able to interpret and engage with both qualitative and quantitative research.
 - o Some familiarity working with government policy documents, processes and datasets is advantageous.
 - o Able to synthesize existing research, situate it within the South African context and communicate it clearly to different audiences.
- Experience working in the education, literacy development, publishing and/or libraries sectors is strongly preferred; government experience strongly advantageous.
- Experience working on behavior change campaigns and/or strong knowledge of how to apply behavioural science principles to social programme design is desirable.
- Experience convening and/or participating in coalitions or collective impact initiatives is strongly desirable.
- Strong Microsoft Office skills, including MS Word, MS Excel and MS PowerPoint.
- Fluency in English; fluency in additional South African language(s) strongly advantageous.

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Should you meet the above requirements, please email your motivational letter, CV, and 1-2 writing samples to work@nalibali.org with your name and surname, position title on the subject line, (e.g. Asanda Dlamini: Research & Advocacy Lead).

Closing date: 5 April 2019

Please note that feedback will be provided to shortlisted candidates only.

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