

Job Title: Research Associate

Grade: 7

Salary: £39,906 to £46,049 per annum, pro-rata if part-time

Department: Global, Lifestyle and Metabolic Health

Hours/Contract: Full-time, part-time (minimum 0.8FTE, 30 hours per week), or job share considered, fixed term contract for 24 months

Job Family: Teaching and Research

Reference: 12940

Role Purpose

The Diabetes Research Centre (University of Leicester) and NIHR Leicester Biomedical Research Centre Lifestyle Theme host a multidisciplinary team of internationally renowned researchers who work collaboratively to investigate how medications, diets and exercise used in the management of obesity and/or type 2 diabetes (or related chronic diseases) work to affect whole body health, either in isolation or when combined together. This includes a growing portfolio of industry collaborations and funding which require complex regulatory approvals and processes (including MHRA) alongside diverse research funding from research charities and the NIHR.

The post holder will work closely with principal investigators and other senior researchers to support the set-up, delivery and dissemination of clinical trials within our obesity and clinical portfolios. This will include contributing to and where appropriate leading on all aspects of the research process (e.g. funding acquisition, regulatory approvals, data collection, analysis, funder reporting and dissemination) to deliver existing research plans and contribute to new research ideas and income generation.

In doing so, the post holder will receive excellent training and career development across the full research process in an area of clinical and public health priority.

Main Duties and Responsibilities

Research

- Lead and/or independently support the set-up, delivery, and management of clinical trials aimed at the management of obesity and/or chronic disease. This may include (but is not limited to) the development of study protocols, obtaining regulatory/ethics approvals, quality assurance processes, data collection, site file management and liaising with our research funders and sponsors
- Provide substantial contribution to diverse research outputs, by leading and/or independently supporting both data analysis and the preparation of journal article manuscripts, conference abstracts and presentations, and funder reports.
- Work with senior academics to develop research proposals and funding applications in related areas to attract additional research funding.
- Support data governance, quality and analytical outputs from the research programmes as appropriate.
- Contribute to the overall research portfolio using innovative research models, novel approaches and techniques.





- In agreement with the line manager, liaise with project collaborators to progress the research
- Support the supervision of research students and provide advice and guidance to other members of the wider research team (both research staff and students).
- Participate in research management and administration processes.
- Actively seek opportunities to carry out multi-disciplinary research with other research groups at the University, or stakeholders external to the University.
- Ensure compliance with health and safety requirements in all aspects of work.

Professional Development

- Maintain a broad knowledge of up-to-date research and scholarship in relevant fields.
- Undertake appropriate training and personal development activities to develop research skills relevant to the studies being undertaken by the group; this may include attendance of internal and external training courses if the opportunity arises.
- Engage in work and opportunities that support your own professional development, including for example through participation in relevant staff development programmes.
- Develop an external profile and reputation in own field of research.

Impact and Knowledge Exchange

- Represent the research group at external meetings, including national and international conferences (if the opportunity arises). This may include delivering poster, oral or other presentations.
- Contribute to building and maintaining internal and external collaborations, including with industry, academic and other partners.
- Participate in workshops and conferences to support the dissemination of research findings.
- Undertake, subject to agreement of the lead researchers, external commitments which reflect well upon and enhance the reputation of the Diabetes Research Centre and the University of Leicester.
- Contribute to industry collaborations.
- Engage positively and pro-actively in research impact.

Leadership and Citizenship

- Design and develop the work-plan required to meet deadlines related to the principal responsibilities above, including planning and prioritising personal work load several months ahead and coordinating with other teams and individuals, whilst also adapting to accommodate new developments or research directions.
- Carry out administrative duties related to the trial and the overall research programme of the group, as required by the lead researchers and/or study teams.
- Contribute to the overall department by attending meetings and seminars as appropriate.
- Undertake other departmental roles as may be reasonably required by the lead researchers.
- Contribute to the overall success of the research programme.



- Pro-actively build networks and collaborations.
- Be involved in the recruitment, management and development of staff and act as a mentor to colleagues.

Teaching

- Whilst primarily a research role, the post holder may on occasion be asked to lead or assist with the development and/or delivery of lectures, seminars, tutorials and other classes or public presentations within their areas of expertise, in support of teaching or other education activities delivered by the Diabetes Research Centre.
- When doing the above, the post holder will be expected to support and comply with the University teaching quality assurance standards and procedures including the provision of such information as may be required by the University.

Internal and External Relationships

The post holder will be situated at the Leicester Diabetes Centre, located at Leicester General Hospital. They will sit within the Lifestyle Theme of the NIHR Leicester BRC (as part of the wider Leicester Lifestyle and Health Research Group), and work directly with various teams across the Leicester Diabetes Centre and BRC, as well as liaising closely with the University of Leicester Research and Enterprise Division.

Within the role, the appointee will be expected to liaise and work closely with all of the teams within the Diabetes Research Centre, external research groups that are part of the BRC Lifestyle Theme, and the other research themes across the BRC as well as significant collaborations with research staff across the University of Leicester College of Life Sciences. This may include working with groups across sites at the University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust, and with other collaborative organisations as appropriate.

The post holder will be expected to proactively build networks and collaborations across the NIHR Leicester BRC, the Diabetes Research Centre, the College of Life Sciences and the wider University of Leicester, including participation in seminar programmes/networking events to stimulate dissemination of information and collaboration. They will also be expected to seek to establish and maintain related collaborations nationally and internationally, including through regular attendance and presentation at major national and international conferences in the research area.

The appointee will also be expected to liaise and work closely with all of the teams within the Diabetes Research Centre, external research groups that are part of the Biomedical Research Lifestyle Theme, and other research themes.

The post holder will also have contact with participants (including NHS patients) on studies conducted within them.

Planning and Organising

The post holder will be required to manage their time effectively to deliver on the priorities of the various projects and partnership for which they are responsible, designing and implementing collective workplans to meet project timelines and other deadlines.

They will also support in shaping the strategic direction of industry engagement and funding within the Diabetes Research Centre and NIHR Leicester BRC Lifestyle Theme and the Diabetes Research Centre, developing clear long-term plans for sustaining and enhancing the research programme. They may also



participate in the division operational planning process, supporting the strategic direction of the Division and College

When using facilities across the University, the sites of the Hospital Trust or the NIHR Leicester BRC, the post holder will have to plan well in advance to ensure all their requirements will be available for the work to be done.

Qualifications, Knowledge and Experience

Essential

- PhD in a relevant discipline (or near completion)*
- Experience of conducting clinical or experimental research programmes*
- Experience or knowledge of applying for regulatory approvals in human research*
- Experience of running research programmes to time and target*
- Expertise and research outputs in the area of exercise, nutrition or obesity*
- Significant research experience and skills in the research area*
- Potential to produce research outputs that are internationally recognised and of a quality that is aspiring to be world-leading in terms of originality, significance and rigour in time for the next REF cycle (2029)*
- Proficient in Microsoft Office or equivalent software, including word processing, spreadsheets, and presentations*
- Experience of collaboration or team working*

Desirable

- Experience in conducting research in the area of type 2 diabetes, obesity or other long-term cardiometabolic conditions
- Experience or knowledge of applying for regulatory approvals for clinical trials*
- Experience of working within industry collaborations or partnerships
- Expertise and experience that enhances strategic areas of importance to the NIHR Leicester BRC Lifestyle Theme and the Diabetes Research Centre.
- Experience of developing, delivering and managing collaborative research partnerships
- Involvement in relevant internal and external committees and groups
- Experience of involvement in externally-funded, multidisciplinary programmes of research
- Experience in preparing/submitting successful grant funding applications
- Experience of working with clinical populations in a clinical setting, particularly those with or at risk of chronic metabolic disease

Skills, Abilities and Competencies

Essential

- Excellent interpersonal skills, with the ability to develop and maintain networks and collaborations, and to work effectively as part of a team*
- Ability to manage and coordinate research projects*
- Ability to undertake research and administrative activities, including management and coordination of research projects and programmes
- Ability to communicate effectively
- Ability to work at a high level of accuracy and at high analytical sensitivity





- Ability to interpret analytical data
- Excellent written* and oral communication skills
- Effective presentation skills
- Excellent IT skills
- Excellent organisational skills
- Ability to prioritise workload in order to meet deadlines
- Highly motivated
- Willingness to undertake necessary training and personal development
- Willingness to undertake necessary travel to work from the office and meet collaborators

Desirable

- Ability to work with senior staff, and to negotiate and influence where required
- Skills in coaching, mentoring and developing others, including students, early career researchers and colleagues
- Skills in pastoral care and motivation of junior staff and students
- Well-developed understanding of Health and Safety regulations and procedures, particularly around clinical research.
- Demonstrable success in producing research outputs of the very highest standard.
- Proven capability in analytical, technical and/or scientific problem-solving.
- Budget management skills.
- Willingness to foster new collaborations.

**Criteria to be used in shortlisting candidates for interview*

Reason for Fixed Term Contract

The reason for the fixed term contract is stated in section 1.9 in the summary of contractual terms in your contract of employment.

Criminal Declaration and Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).

If you become an employee, you must inform your manager immediately, in writing, if you are the subject of any current or future police investigations/legal proceedings, which could result in a criminal offence, conviction, caution, bind-over or charges, or warnings.

This post is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 because the appointee will have substantial access to young people and/or vulnerable adults. Therefore, an appointment to this post will be subject to checking through the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). The successful applicant for this post will, therefore, be required to give consent for the University to check and obtain appropriate clearance with the DBS for the existence and content of any criminal record in the form of an Enhanced Disclosure – Child and Adult Barred List

Information received from the DBS and the police will be kept in strict confidence and will be destroyed once the University is satisfied in this regard.

NHS Research Governance



Where it is determined that the duties of this post for the purposes of research involve work with the NHS, it is necessary to ensure that the performance of the duties attached to the post are covered by NHS research governance arrangements and the appointee must comply with all such arrangements, which may include occupational health clearance and DBS clearance.

Supporting University Activities

As a University of Leicester citizen, you are encouraged to support key university activities such as clearing, graduation ceremonies, student registration and recruitment open days. We encourage all staff as citizens to work flexibly across the University if required. If supporting these activities is likely to affect your workload, please speak to your line manager in the first instance

University Values

Inclusive - We are diverse in our makeup and united in ambition. Our diversity is our strength and makes our community stronger.

Inspiring - We are passionate about inspiring individuals to succeed and realise their ambitions. We challenge our community to think differently, to get involved, and to constantly embrace new ideas.

Impactful - As Citizens of Change we will generate new ideas which deliver impact and empower our community

Freedom of Speech

The University is committed to upholding freedom of speech and academic freedom within the law throughout our recruitment processes. We ensure that all candidates are considered based on merit and suitability for the role, without regard to their lawful viewpoints or the expression of challenging or controversial ideas. Our recruitment policies and practices are designed to protect applicants from discrimination or adverse treatment on the basis of their opinions, and to foster an environment where open debate and diverse perspectives are valued as essential to our academic mission.

Equity and Diversity

We believe that equity, diversity and inclusion is integral to a successful modern workplace. By developing and implementing policies and systems that challenge stereotypes across all aspects of our work, we have a culture that recognises and values the diverse contributions of our staff which benefits everyone. Our strong values of inclusivity and equality support our efforts to attract a diverse range of high quality staff and students, and identify our University as a progressive and innovative workplace that mainstreams equality, diversity and inclusion.

