

Job Title: British Heart Foundation Leicester Centre of Research Excellence Research Assistant in Epidemiology

Grade: 6

Salary: £33,002 to £37,694 per annum, pro-rata if part-time

Department: Public Health and Epidemiology

Hours/Contract: Full-time or job share, fixed term contract for 12 months

Reference: 12206

Role Purpose

This Research Assistant post in Epidemiology is an exciting opportunity offered through the new British Heart Foundation Leicester Centre of Research Excellence (BHF CRE). We are keen to increase the diversity of our academic body and encourage suitable applicants from ethnic minorities, different nationalities and other diversity groups to apply. This initiative is designed to address the significant under-representation of certain groups in the field of epidemiology and broader health research.

The post will be hosted by the Leicester Real World Evidence Unit (LRWEU) which is based within the Diabetes Research Centre which also houses the East Midlands Centre for Black and Minority Ethnic Health. The unit specialises in the use of large routinely collected data for observational studies in diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

The BHF Leicester CRE has been funded £3 million from October 2024 to October 2029 to carry out pioneering research bench to bedside and beyond and addressing questions of high relevance to the public and health system. Three specialty areas will cover medical advancements into cardiovascular discovery, interventions and populations. The Research Assistant post will contribute to our Populations theme which will determine how cardiovascular diseases and multiple long-term conditions are associated with each other. We will help identify who might benefit from interventions that target more than one condition at a time, and the combinations of treatments that different patients might require. We will work with different ethnic groups to identify which treatments are best for each group.

The post-holder will work closely with senior academics/researchers and other team members to help with the drafting of protocols, feasibility counts to inform sample sizes, the extraction of cohorts from electronic health records, data manipulation and cleaning, statistical support and analysis, and contributing to research publications. Through this post, we aim to provide meaningful research experience, mentorship, and exposure to real-world epidemiological studies that inform policy, improve health outcomes, and reduce inequalities in cardiovascular and population health.

Main Duties and Responsibilities

Research

- To support a research team in the acquisition, evaluation and /or interpretation of data and other specialised information.
- To support protocol applications, data extractions and research publications using electronic health records e.g., the Clinical Practice Research Datalink (CPRD).
- To carry out analyses, tests and critical evaluations using agreed techniques, novel approaches and/or models.
- To prepare and undertake high-quality data analysis and tests using appropriate techniques





and novel approaches

- To contribute to the development or choice of techniques, critiques, approaches, models and research methods.
- To summarise findings, record, and disseminate where appropriate to members of the research group.
- To contribute to research outputs such as co-authored journal articles/technical papers/book chapters relating to the work.
- To carry out literature searches within pre-specified parameters.
- To assist in supporting research students in the use of specific methods or approaches under the direction of their line manager.

Professional Development:

- Duties and opportunities to engage in work that support your own professional development.

Impact and Knowledge Exchange:

- Participate in workshops and conferences to support the dissemination of research findings.

Leadership and Citizenship:

- Contribute to the overall success of the BHF Leicester CRE research programme

Internal and External Relationships

- Regular communication with research team, line manager and Principal Investigator.
- Regular research team meetings for different projects.
- Communication with other members of the department to provide statistical advice.

Planning and Organising

The post-holder will be required to effectively manage their time to deliver on the priorities of the research programme with the support of their line manager.

Qualifications, Knowledge and Experience

Essential

- Evidence of Honours degree and/or relevant experience *
- An understanding of approaches to analysing observational data *
- Programming and statistical software skills (e.g., using Python/Stata/SAS/R)*
- Excellent knowledge of statistical programming and data management (Python/Stata/R)*

Desirable

- A PhD or currently studying for a PhD
- Masters qualification in Medical Statistics, Epidemiology, Data Science, or closely related field
- Evidence of leading collaborative projects





- Evidence of research productivity (including high-quality research reports, presentations)*

Skills, Abilities and Competencies

Essential

- Ability to plan, implement and deliver research projects
- High level of proficiency in English; sufficient to undertake research and teaching
- Administrative activities utilising English Language materials
- Excellent analytical and problem-solving skills
- Team player, support broader research group
- Excellent communication skills – written and verbal
- Ability to prioritise tasks within agreed work schedules
- Ability to work independently and also as part of a research team

Desirable

- An interest in the priority health areas specified by the BHF Leicester Centre for Research Excellence

****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

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.

Supporting University Activities

As a University of Leicester citizen, you are expected to support key university activities such as clearing, graduation ceremonies, student registration and recruitment open days. We expect all staff as citizens to work flexibly across the University if required.

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 equity 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 equity, diversity and inclusion.

