

**Job Title:** Research Associate in Health Services Research

**Grade:** 7

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

**Department:** School of Management

**Hours/Contract:** Full-time or job share, fixed term contract from 01 February 2026 to 31 January 2028.

Part-time and / or job share, secondments also considered

**Reference:** 12435

## Role Purpose

Responsible for delivering a programme of mainly qualitative research and facilitating a Quality Improvement Collaborative as part of the NIHR-funded study: Health Effects from Infection sequelae: Tailoring services and Advancing Guidance (HERITAGE), 2025-2028. Accountable to Dr Gemma Hughes, co-applicant for HERITAGE, and will work collaboratively with internal and external partners, including clinicians, patients and the public. Work independently as part of a research team to achieve defined milestones and produce high quality research.

## Main Duties and Responsibilities

### Research:

- To undertake mixed methods specific role in a research project or projects, taking responsibility for some element(s) of the planned research
- To lead in the collection, evaluation and interpretation of the research data in experimental design and performance, and work autonomously to attain project milestones.
- To contribute to the development of the choice of techniques, critiques, approaches, models and methods
- To contribute to the overall research programme using innovative research models, novel approaches and techniques.
- In agreement with the line manager, liaise with project collaborators to progress the research
- To lead in writing up research findings for dissemination amongst the research team and broader international community, and develop ideas and contributions for future grants, technical outputs.
- To represent the research group by disseminating results/findings at national and international conferences and broader community.
- To contribute to research outputs as a co-author to journal articles, technical papers, monograph, book chapter.
- To develop and carry out a plan to extend an area of personal research, or contribute as a team member to the development of a broader programme, this may include contributing to the writing of research bids/grants.
- With the support of colleagues, identify opportunities to apply for fellowships and/or further project grants
- To provide guidance to other staff and students (involved in the research programme).
- To actively seek opportunities to carry out multi-disciplinary research with other research groups at the University or stakeholders external to the University, with the approval of the Principal Investigator (PI).



## Professional Development:

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

## Impact and Knowledge Exchange:

- Network and contribute to the maintaining and furthering of the wider research programme and research area
- To contribute to industry collaborations
- To consult effectively on own specialism directly with people external to the University
- To engage positively and pro-actively in research impact

## Leadership and Citizenship:

- Guidance to other team members both research staff and students
- Pro-actively build networks and collaborations.
- Providing mentoring and coaching to Early Career Researchers and research students.

## Internal and External Relationships

- Regular meetings with members of the programme research group
- Meeting members of the department for critical discussion of the research and exchange of new ideas and approaches that might benefit the research
- Liaison with external collaborators

## Planning and Organising

You will be required to effectively manage your time to plan your research activity and to deliver on the priorities of the project:

- Prioritise tasks within agreed work schedules;
- Plan for specific aspects of research incorporating issues such as deadlines, project milestones and overall research aims;
- Adapt daily and weekly plans to accommodate new developments and be flexible to the changing priorities of the research project;

## Qualifications, Knowledge and Experience

### Essential

- PhD or equivalent in appropriate discipline or the equivalent professional qualification and experience \*
- Evidence of a contribution to peer-reviewed journal papers or equivalent e.g technical report \*
- Evidence of proven analytical problem solving capability \*
- Expertise in qualitative research including conducting qualitative interviews and analysis of qualitative data\*
- Experience of conducting qualitative or mixed-methods research in the fields of either healthcare management or medical research or health and illness\*

### Desirable

- Experience of conducting ethnography





## Skills, Abilities and Competencies

### Essential

- Demonstrable understanding of the NHS context and UK health policy environment
- Willingness and ability to work with internal and external stakeholders
- Evidence of continued development of subject expertise
- Excellent communication skills – written\* and verbal evidenced by the ability to communicate complex information
- Evidence of working effectively as part of a team and the ability to work independently
- Working towards independence and ability to be involved in collaborative research
- Evidence and commitment to Continuous Professional Development (CPD) for yourself, and encourage commitment to learn and develop in others
- Collegiate member of a research team

### Desirable

- Budget management skills
- Expertise in quality improvement processes
- Expertise in the study of long term conditions and/or Long Covid and ME/CFS

***\*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.

## 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.

## 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 a standard check

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.





### 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

### 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.

