

Job Title: NIHR ARC EM Knowledge Mobilisation & Impact Specialist

Grade: 7

Salary: £39,906 to £46,049 per annum pro rata

Department: NIHR ARC East Midlands; College of Life Sciences

Hours/Contract: Part-time (18.75 hours per week), fixed term contract until 31 March 2031

Job Family: Management & Administration

Reference: 13613

Role Purpose

As Knowledge Mobilisation & Impact Specialist, you will bridge the gap between academia and health/care sectors to ensure NIHR-funded research drives real-world change. Supporting Applied Research Collaboration (ARC) East Midlands, you will use your specialist expertise to transform research evidence into accessible and actionable outputs, aligning research innovations with the NHS 10 Year Health Plan to maximise visibility, utility and practical impact.

Operating at the intersection of systems thinking and practical implementation, you will work with the ARC's Head of Knowledge Mobilisation to bridge the gap between regional needs and evidence-based solutions, facilitating the mobilisation and national adoption and scaling of NIHR research innovations and knowledge. You will be knowledge mobilisation (KM) literate and have a deep level of understanding of the fields of knowledge mobilisation and ideally, implementation science. You will have operational experience of using this knowledge to mobilise research evidence into use, and of maximising the use and impact of research evidence within health and care.

You will be a skilled strategic thinker, able to connect ideas, people and programmes across disciplines and organisations to deliver impact. You will be able to interpret and assess customer needs, identify evidence and policy trends, generate original ideas, and recommend changes where appropriate, in order to facilitate the mobilisation and scaling of innovations. You will have excellent influencing and stakeholder management abilities, and demonstrate exceptional communication skills, capable of confidently engaging diverse audiences including senior policymakers, commissioners and members of the public. You will be comfortable working with ambiguity and complexity, exercising sound judgement and diplomacy in sensitive or politically nuanced situations.





Main Duties and Responsibilities

Analysis, Reporting & Documentation

- Work with ARC research teams to co-develop and deliver knowledge mobilisation plans from the outset of research projects, and using analytical skills and knowledge of contextual / policy trends, adjust these plans in real-time based on shifts in health/care/policy priorities or emerging contextual developments.
- Critically appraise and summarise academic, policy and grey literature in response to evidence requests, informing key decisions in the health and care system, providing the right information to the right people at the right time.
- Interpret and summarise complex research findings and national guidelines into easily digestible and usable formats for non-academic audiences, such as policy briefings or operational plans.
- Facilitate iterative, inclusive knowledge mobilisation to co-create high-impact KM products—from rapid evidence reviews to tailored toolkits—that inform commissioning and can lead to practice change.
- Capture and synthesise evidence of real-world change and impact, closing the cycle between research and final implementation.
- With the ARC's Head of KM, monitor the KM / implementation processes and adapt strategies as necessary to enhance uptake. Capture tacit & experiential knowledge and avoid repeating past pitfalls.
- Collect data (e.g., through reflective diaries or stakeholder interviews) to track how evidence is being used and capture the real-world impact of KM activities.

Customer Service & Support

- Apply specialist expertise in KM and Implementation Science, to transform research knowledge into actionable practice.
- Generate original ideas and innovative solutions to health / care gaps, by synthesising and translating complex research knowledge into actionable, context-specific insights (KM products) and deliver these to the respective stakeholder audiences in a time sensitive manner.
- Work with Head of KM to identify, adapt and broker innovative research solutions ready for wider adoption across the NIHR infrastructure, Health Innovation Networks and with other stakeholders to "roll out" successful interventions across different regions. Facilitate the entry of products from other parts of the NIHR infrastructure back into ARC EM.
- Employ "push-pull" mechanisms to align researcher outputs with the urgent knowledge needs of Integrated Care Systems (ICS), NHS England, and local / regional / national partners.
- Navigate complex, ambiguous environments to ensure research reaches its full potential for social and clinical impact.

Planning & Organising

- Plan own activity, in collaboration with the Head of KM and wider ARC team, for complementarity, to meet wider aims of both the role and how the role delivers for ARC EM (yearly and five-yearly objectives).
- Project manage own activities within ARC EM work unit.





Finance / Resource Management

- Contribute to resource and budget planning and allocation across ARC KM & impact generating activities.

Liaison

- Actively participate in ARC EM (meetings, workshops etc), demonstrating cross functional area working in order to contribute to delivering organisational objectives.
- Broker knowledge. Connect people and programmes across disciplines to synthesise evidence for high-priority health areas. Proactively engage and foster collaborations with diverse partners, including clinicians, academics, local authorities, and public members. Collaborate with local decision-makers, researchers, healthcare providers, policymakers, and community organisations to identify knowledge needs and facilitate the exchange of information. Act as a diplomat and influencer, engaging with policymakers, researchers, and the public.
- Strengthen the regional ecosystem by delivering KM training and evaluating "what works," contributing to cross-NIHR communities of practice and the anticipated Innovation Catalyst programme.
- Represent ARC EM at internal and external meetings, for example, through actively participating in national knowledge mobilisation communities to share insights and best practice, and supporting research/evidence brokerage within and across ARCs.

People Management

- Effective transfer of skills to others. Provide training, coaching, and mentoring to researchers and practitioners, both within and external to ARC, to enhance their skills in evidence-based practice and knowledge mobilisation.

Continuous Improvement

Continuing development of knowledge, skills and experience. Maintain up to date awareness and understanding of knowledge mobilisation and impact models, and apply these to own practice / ARC EM as required.

Internal and External Relationships

Internal:

- Liaise closely with the Head of Knowledge Mobilisation, other ARC area functional leads, Programme Managers, and Theme Leads.
- Liaise closely with ARC research teams.

External:

- Contact with external bodies such as research grant awarding bodies (NIHR), other ARCS, NIHR infrastructure, key partners as identified.
- Contact with EM Health Innovation Network, NHS Providers within the East Midlands, ICBs within the East Midlands, Academic Institutions within the East Midlands, all other partners.

Planning and Organising

- Plan and organise own activity (and coordinate inputs from others where needed) with an appreciation of longer-term issues, ensuring plans complement and feed into broader operational plans by integrating and co-ordinating work with a range of other ARC (and external partner) functional areas.



- Track priorities, work to deadlines and manage multiple workstreams concurrently; use judgement and initiative to adjust priorities in response to emergent needs.
- Read complex information and present it to different audiences appropriately in a clear and accessible way.
- Be flexible and adaptable to respond to shifting and emergent priorities; maintain service quality and accuracy under pressure.

Qualifications, Knowledge and Experience

Essential

- A PhD or equivalent experience in applied research / knowledge mobilisation and impact.*
- Proven professional experience in applied health research, implementation science, knowledge mobilisation or quality improvement within the health/care system (e.g., NHS or local government).*
- High level understanding of knowledge mobilisation theories and their operationalisation for achieving impact driven activities. *
- Detailed knowledge and understanding of systems/services in own area and their varied applications.
- Authoritative knowledge of the work practices, processes and procedures relevant to the role, including broader sector.
- Experience of applying KM models to develop and adapt real-time impact plans that align research with shifting health / care and policy priorities.*

Desirable

- Experience working in complex multi-stakeholder environment
- Strong understanding of the UK health and social care system and related current national policy priorities.
- Experience of managing the activities of self and/or others.
- Project and/or people management skills that may have been gained/be identifiable through previous experience.
- Awareness of the current and future activities of the ARC.
- Knowledge of / a network of contacts relevant to the ARC.

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

Skills, Abilities and Competencies

Essential

- Experience of creating and mobilising knowledge mobilisation tools that can be utilised and evidenced for impact.*
- An understanding of research approaches, methods, results and reports, to rapidly synthesis material to answer priority questions for health/care practice-based problems, and to identify actionable insights from data.*
- Experience of knowledge brokering and rolling out successful interventions regionally and nationally, including the facilitation "push-pull" knowledge exchange between researchers, clinicians, local authorities, and the public.*
- Exceptional ability to translate and present complex data for diverse audiences.*
- Good written and spoken communication skills, tailoring to and targeting audiences.



- Experience of evidence synthesis and translation, to co-create "context-ready" KM products (briefings, toolkits, infographics) for non-academic decision-makers.*
- A systems-thinker capable of linking ideas to real-world outcomes. Can demonstrate resilience, adaptability, and problem-solving ability.
- Proven ability to manage complex workloads, meet tight deadlines, and adjust plans to reflect changing clinical or research needs.*
- Competent user of standard office-based software.
- Understanding of evaluation techniques and approaches, and experience in collecting and analysing impact data.*
- Experience of qualitative and quantitative evaluation of evidence of research uptake.

Desirable

- Track record of delivering training programmes and offering bespoke support and mentoring, to build knowledge mobilisation skills and capacity in others.
- Experience of linking active research projects to local and national health priorities.
- Skilled at building and maintaining relationships across multi-disciplinary and multi-organisational teams.
- Skilled strategic thinker, able to connect ideas, people, and programmes across disciplines and organisations to deliver impact.
- Excellent influencing and stakeholder management abilities.
- Exceptional communication skills, capable of confidently engaging diverse audiences including senior policymakers, commissioners and members of the public.
- Comfortable working with ambiguity and complexity, exercising sound judgement and diplomacy in sensitive or politically nuanced situations.

****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 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.

