

Job Title: Research Associate in Clinical Trial Methodology

Grade: 7

Salary: £39,105 per annum, pro rata if part-time, due to funding restrictions

Department: Population Health Sciences

Hours/Contract: Full-time or job share, fixed term contract from 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

Job Family: Teaching and Research

Reference: 10864

Role Purpose

We are looking for a talented, motivated individual to join the Biostatistics Research Group to undertake methodological research funded by the NIHR Research for Patient Benefit Programme.

The Biostatistics Research Group within the Department of Population Health Sciences specialises in the development, application and teaching of statistical methods in medical research with the ultimate aim of improving the health of the population. A particular strength of the group is the transferral of novel statistical methodology into practice through the development of software, use of novel methods in applied studies through collaboration with both internal and external clinicians, development of guidelines for policy-makers and teaching on specialist courses.

We are looking for an excellent researcher with an interest in clinical trial methodology to lead a project looking at Identifying methodological uncertainties in the design and analysis of trials in people living with multiple long-term conditions. The project includes undertaking a systematic review of current trials in this disease area to understand current practice followed by a consensus study using a Delphi approach to prioritise methodological uncertainties for future methodological research. At the end of the study we will hold a workshop to disseminate the findings and develop working groups to address the priority issues.

The post-holder will work collaboratively and independently as part of the research team. The post-holder will work closely with the project lead, co-investigators and steering group to complete the required research. This role requires expertise and interest in the design and analysis of clinical trials. The post-holder will be responsible for completing the systematic review, developing the protocol for the consensus study and managing ethical approvals, and conducting the Delphi study. They will also contribute to the dissemination of research findings through publications, presentations, and stakeholder engagement activities. Hybrid working is allowed, the post-holder would be expected to be present in the department a minimum of 3 days a week.

Main Duties and Responsibilities

Research

- To lead methodological research including a systematic review and a consensus study to understand methodological uncertainties in the design and analysis of trials in people living with multiple long-term conditions.
- 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 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 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 research team including the Principal Investigators and co-Investigators
- 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 including the study steering committee

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 (such as medical statistics) or the equivalent professional qualification and experience *
- Evidence of a contribution to peer-reviewed journal papers or equivalent e.g technical report/writing a piece of software *
- Evidence of proven analytical problem-solving capability *
- Experience working in clinical trials *

Desirable

- Experience of conducting systematic reviews or consensus studies
- Experience of patient and public involvement
- Experience of clinical trials related methodology research
- Experience of obtaining ethical approval

Skills, Abilities and Competencies

Essential

- 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

****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

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.

