

Job Title: Associate Professor in Behaviour Change and Vascular Sciences (Research Focused)

Grade: 9

Salary: £59,966 to £67,468 per annum, pro-rata if part-time

Department: Cardiovascular Sciences

Hours/Contract: Full-time, or job share considered, fixed term contract until 30 September 2030

Reference: 12418

Role Purpose

The Associate Professor will provide strategic leadership in psychology and behavioural science within the NIHR Research Professorship awarded to Professor Athanasios Saratzis. The post-holder will make a substantial contribution to the design, implementation, and evaluation of complex interventions aimed at improving the management of peripheral arterial disease and related vascular conditions. They will ensure that behavioural and psychological theory and evidence underpin the development of interventions to enhance patient adherence, lifestyle change, and engagement with best medical care.

Working collaboratively with a multidisciplinary team of clinicians, health economists, methodologists, and patient and public representatives, the Associate Professor will lead the integration of behavioural science across all research work packages. The role will include responsibility for methodological innovation, intervention mapping, and process evaluation, ensuring the research is rigorous, patient-centred, and aligned with NIHR expectations for impact and translational value.

The post-holder will also play a key role in academic leadership, including the supervision of doctoral and postdoctoral researchers, mentorship of early career colleagues, and the development of national and international collaborations. They will contribute to high-quality publications, grant development, and dissemination activities, supporting the long-term sustainability and influence of the Research Professorship.

To draw on extensive academic excellence to underpin and carry out activities across a range of areas of academic and university life that aligns with [the University's strategic themes](#) of 'World Changing Research' and 'Our Citizens', together with the University's values.

Our approach to the academic career structure recognises the plurality of academic careers and encourages a balance between breadth and specialisation. This is underpinned by the Academic Career Map, which articulates the expectations of academic staff at each stage of their academic career, and clearly establishes what they can do in order to progress their academic career at Leicester.

Main Duties and Responsibilities

- Provide leadership in psychology and behavioural science to ensure that behavioural and psychological theory and evidence are embedded across all work packages, particularly in the development and evaluation of the NIHR CIRCULIFE project led by Professor Athanasios Saratzis.
- Lead the design, co-creation, and evaluation of complex interventions, applying behaviour change and health psychology methodologies to improve patient adherence, lifestyle modification, and engagement with medical care.





- Collaborate across disciplines and with patient and public contributors, working closely with clinicians, health economists, methodologists, and lay representatives to ensure co-production and patient-centred delivery of the research.
- Contribute to academic leadership and capacity building, through supervision of doctoral fellows, mentorship of early career researchers, and fostering methodological innovation within the Professorship.
- Support dissemination, impact, and international collaboration, by contributing to publications, funding applications, conference outputs, and engagement with national and global partners to maximise the translational reach of the research.

World Changing Research

- Maintain an emergent portfolio of internationally recognised publications that are world-leading in terms of originality, significance and rigour as appropriate to the field or discipline, and which have an impact on society, economy, culture, industry, government, policy or practice
- Engage in research and enterprise leadership, making significant contributions to promoting and embedding an inclusive and respectful research culture
- Secure sustained external research income on an individual and collaborative basis, as appropriate to the field or discipline
- Provide high quality PGR supervision and training, contributing to securing funding for postgraduate and early career researchers and increasing PGR recruitment within the subject discipline.
- Participate in and lead strategic national and/or international research networks, partnerships and collaborations
- Support the research development of PGRs and colleagues, through mentoring, coaching and training

Our Citizens

- Contribute to initiatives and activities that inform national and international policies and decisions, generating a positive impact beyond the University and making a tangible contribution to society.
- Contribute to the practice or debate around policies or practice, based on research evidence and/or scholarly activity
- Participate in public engagement activities, including authoring articles in non-research publications and online, which raise the external profile of the University and share the benefits of Higher Education and research
- Actively engage with the academic discipline both nationally and internationally, undertaking roles on external committees, reviews and panels and/or contributing to conferences and volunteering initiatives which demonstrate impact beyond the University





- Participate in and undertake leadership roles at School, College, and/or University level, contributing to management and administrative processes and committee structures
- Lead and support the recruitment, management and development of staff and students, through coaching, mentoring and supporting recruitment activities

Internal and External Relationships

- Develop mutually beneficial, effective relationships across other Schools/Departments in the University and with national and/or international partners, that support and deliver the University strategy.
- Represent the University nationally and internationally, including at committees, conferences and meetings.
- Build and sustain relationships with external bodies to develop the School/Department's impact agenda.
- Coordination with central University offices.

Planning and Organising

- Shape the strategic direction in the research area, developing clear long term (many months/years) plans for sustaining and enhancing the research programme.
- Long term planning and organisation of the delivery of teaching and assessment.
- Participate in the departmental operational planning process, supporting the strategic direction of the Department/School and College.

Qualifications, Knowledge and Experience

Essential

- PhD (or equivalent doctoral qualification) in psychology, behavioural medicine, health sciences, or a closely related discipline*
- Established track record of applied research in health psychology, behaviour change, or intervention development, evidenced by high-quality publications and grant income*
- Demonstrated expertise in developing, implementing, and evaluating complex interventions in healthcare settings, including the use of qualitative and quantitative methodologies*
- Experience of leading or contributing to multidisciplinary research teams, with proven ability to collaborate effectively with clinicians, methodologists, health economists, and patient/public contributors*
- Evidence of academic leadership, including supervision of doctoral/postdoctoral researchers and mentorship of early career colleagues*
- Strong track record of disseminating research to academic, clinical, and lay audiences, with demonstrable impact on practice, policy, or service delivery*
- Excellent organisational, communication, and interpersonal skills, with the ability to engage and influence diverse stakeholders.

Desirable





- Experience of NIHR-funded research or equivalent large-scale national/international applied health research programmes*
- Expertise in implementation science, intervention mapping, or process evaluation within health research*
- Evidence of international collaboration and contribution to global health research initiatives*
- Experience of contributing to research capacity building, including grant development and academic programme leadership*
- Familiarity with vascular disease, cardiovascular health, or other long-term condition management.

Skills, Abilities and Competencies

Essential

- High level of proficiency in English, sufficient to undertake research, teaching and administrative activities and to communicate effectively with staff and students*
- Ability to lead, motivate, develop and manage the performance of a team*
- Ability to work independently and as part of a multi-disciplinary team*
- Excellent interpersonal skills, to develop networks and form collaborations
- Ability to prioritise tasks within agreed work schedules*
- Ability to plan, organise, implement and deliver programmes of work
- An awareness and understanding of diverse community issues and a strong commitment to equity, diversity and inclusivity and continuous improvement in pursuit of Operational 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 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 Disclosure

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.

