



Job Title: Research Associate

Grade: 7

Salary: £39,105 to £45,163 per annum, pro rata if part-time

Department: Population Health Sciences

Hours/Contract: Full-time, Fixed term contract for up to 4 years, depending on start date of post, and confirmation of start date of grant

Job Family: Teaching and Research

Reference: 10976

Role Purpose

To work closely with the IMPROVE Preterm study team to develop a novel parent-completed questionnaire to assess children’s cognitive ability at 5-7 years of age. The postholder will be responsible for day-to-day management of the project and for primary data collection which will involve online survey methods, focus groups, and in-person assessments of children’s cognitive abilities. The post will involve regular travel to primary schools throughout the East Midlands and to project meetings throughout Europe. The postholder will work both independently and collaboratively as part of the IMPROVE Preterm study team to achieve defined milestones and produce high quality research outputs.

Main Duties and Responsibilities

Research

- To undertake and write up the results of literature reviews.
- To organise and lead focus groups with stakeholders.
- To maintain international collaborations to support partners in carrying out research that is led by the University of Leicester.
- To be responsible for the collection of study data, including using online survey methods and face-to-face standardised cognitive assessments with children.
- To be responsible for the statistical analysis of study data, including analysis of the validity and reliability of the questionnaire, and to support the standardisation of the questionnaire.
- To write regular progress reports and draft documents required to meet study milestones and deliverables.
- To liaise with project collaborators to progress the research and to attend project meetings throughout Europe.
- To lead in writing up research findings for dissemination amongst the research team and broader international community.
- To represent the research group by disseminating results/findings at national and international conferences and at consortium meetings.
- To contribute to research outputs as a co-author.





- To provide day-to-day supervision of the Research Assistant working on the IMPROVE preterm project.
- To support the translation of the questionnaire into other languages using artificial intelligence and liaison with project partners.

Professional Development

- Undertake relevant training and other opportunities to engage in work that supports your own professional development.

Impact and Knowledge Exchange

- To engage positively and pro-actively in developing and evidencing research impact
- To engage in knowledge exchange activities as guided by the line manager.

Leadership and Citizenship

- To provide guidance to other team members.
- To pro-actively build networks and collaborations among other members of the consortium

Internal and External Relationships

Membership of The Infant Mortality and Morbidity Studies research group within the Department of Population Health Sciences.

Regular meetings with members of the IMPROVE preterm research team at the University of Leicester.

Communication and liaison with external collaborators, including attendance at consortium meetings throughout Europe.

Study participants including children 5-7 and their parents/carers

Planning and Organising

You will be required to effectively manage your own 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 deliverables, and overall research aims;
- Develop weekly plans to accommodate new developments and be flexible to the evolving priorities of the research project.

Qualifications, Knowledge and Experience





Essential

- PhD or equivalent (or near completion) in psychology, epidemiology, medicine or related subject or the equivalent professional qualification and experience *
- Willingness and ability to attend and give oral presentations at consortium meetings throughout Europe.*
- Previous experience of primary data collection for research.*
- Evidence of contribution to authorship to high quality research outputs and/or outcomes.*
- Proven analytical and problem-solving capability.

Desirable:

- Previous experience of working in international or multi-location research projects
- Previous experience of working with schools as part of research projects
- Experience of conducting research with children.
- Previous experience of administering standardised assessments.
- Experience with questionnaire development.
- Good working knowledge of multivariate analysis with statistical software, e.g. SPSS, JASP, R.
- Experience managing large datasets or handling cross-cultural collaborations
- Previous experience of running focus groups.

Skills, Abilities and Competencies

Essential

- Proficiency with data management and quantitative statistical analyses.*
- Willingness and ability to travel to primary schools throughout the East Midlands to administer standardised assessments with children (regular visits over the relevant parts of the project).*
- The ability to communicate effectively orally, in writing and electronically with other members of the research team, and in the dissemination of research findings.*
- Evidence of working effectively as part of a team and the ability to work independently with minimal supervision to meet set deadlines.*
- Excellent IT skills in email, word processing, databases, statistics packages, programming online surveys.*
- Ability to maintain confidentiality and high standards of professional integrity and sensitivity when working with families, children and professionals.
- Collegiate member of a research team.
- Ability to interact confidently with children.

Desirable

- A full clean UK driving licence or method to travel to different sites when required

****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 an Enhanced check with adult barred list.

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.

