



Job Title:	Research Assistant in Statistics and Genetic Epidemiology
Grade:	6
Salary:	£33,002 to £37,694 per annum
Department:	Division of Public Health and Epidemiology
Hours/Contract:	Full time fixed term contract until 31/10/2030
Job Family:	Teaching and Research
Reference:	13083

Role Purpose

Building on your experience of statistical analysis, you will assist the research group in analysis of statistical genetic and genomic epidemiology projects that contribute to drug development, whilst developing further skills in statistical genetic analyses.

You will join an internationally-renowned research group, funded by the Wellcome Trust, MRC, NIHR, and industry collaboration, which has a major focus on training, career development and capacity-building, and which makes extensive use of linked electronic healthcare data in genomic studies.

Key areas of work include: epidemiology and genetic epidemiology analyses encompassing chronic diseases in the EXCEED Cohort Study; understanding the genetic basis of respiratory diseases (for example, through an £8.8 million Wellcome Trust Discovery Award “Applying a multidisciplinary approach to defining molecular pathways in lung function impairment”) and; research collaborations to enable drug development, drug safety and repurposing (such as Multi-ancestry Genomic and Phenomic studies for Drug Development in collaboration with Orion Pharma). All projects involve large-scale genomic and phenotype data from cohort studies and large biobanks, working collaboratively as part of the Genetic Epidemiology Group and with national and international academic and industry collaborators to achieve defined milestones and produce high quality research outputs.

Main Duties and Responsibilities

Research

- To support a research team in the acquisition, evaluation and /or interpretation of the research data.
- To carry out analyses, tests and critical evaluations using agreed techniques, novel approaches and/or models.
- To prepare and undertake high-quality data analysis and tests using appropriate techniques and novel approaches.
- To contribute to the development or choice of techniques, critiques, approaches, models and research methods.
- To summarise findings, record, and disseminate where appropriate to members of the research group
- To contribute to research outputs such as co-authored journal articles/technical papers/book chapters relating to the work
- To carry out literature searches within pre-specified parameters.
- To assist in supporting research students in the use of specific methods or approaches under the direction of their line manager.





Professional Development:

- Attend training recommended by your line manager(s), journal club meetings and undertake self-directed study to develop new knowledge relating to statistical analyses of genetic association studies and to maintain up-to-date knowledge required to interface effectively with other researchers in the program
- Engage in work that supports your wider professional development.

Impact and Knowledge Exchange:

- Participate in workshops and conferences to support the dissemination of research findings.

Leadership and Citizenship:

- Contribute to the overall success of the research programme

Internal and External Relationships

- Communicate and liaise with colleagues and collaborators involved in the above-mentioned research programme and other projects and the team is undertaking, on a regular basis to review and plan research activities.
- Initiate and maintain communications with collaborators, under the direction of your line manager.
- Attend meetings nationally and internationally that are relevant to the research programme.

Planning and Organising

With guidance from the Principal Investigator, or equivalent, plan own work and prioritise research and project activities on a regular basis, including co-ordinating resources and maintenance of samples and equipment.

- The post-holder will be required to effectively manage their time to deliver on the priorities of the research programme with the support of their line manager.
- Attend suitable training courses or equivalent and be proactive in terms of continued professional development.

Qualifications, Knowledge and Experience

Essential

- Evidence of Honours degree and/or relevant experience *
- Experience or, at least, basic knowledge of epidemiological study design and data analysis;
- Good knowledge of R statistical software*
- Sound programming skills in R or an alternative software for statistical analysis*





Desirable

- MSc in a relevant discipline (or the equivalent in professional qualifications and experience*
- Excellent computer programming skills *
- Practical experience in medical statistics or a related field *
- A working knowledge of UNIX as well as Windows operating systems *
- A willingness to develop new knowledge such as methodology for statistical genetic analyses
- Experience of statistical genetic analyses and a basic knowledge of human genetics
- Experience of bioinformatics

Skills, Abilities and Competencies

Essential

- Sound statistical skills *
- Excellent written communication skills *
- Excellent verbal communication skills
- Demonstrate research potential and enthusiasm for the subject area and contribute to delivering high quality research *
- Excellent analytical and problem-solving skills *
- Evidence of continued personal development of subject expertise *
- Ability to prioritise tasks within agreed work schedules*
- Commitment to continuous professional development (CPD)
- A willingness to learn new skills such as statistical genetic analysis programming alongside understanding of the methodology
- Ability to work independently and also as part of a research team
- Willingness to participate in workshops and conferences to support the dissemination of results and findings

****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.

