

**Job Title:** Research Associate

**Grade:** 7

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

**Department:** Respiratory Sciences

**Hours/Contract:** Part-time (0.6FTE, 22.5 hours per week), fixed term contract from 01 March 2026 to 28 February 2027

**Job Family:** Teaching and Research

**Reference:** 12741

## Role Purpose

We are looking for a fixed-term qualitative researcher to work on a 12-month project funded by the Midlands Asthma and Allergy Research Association (MAARA), a registered charity based in the East Midlands. In this project, we are exploring the educational needs of paediatric patients and their carers about asthma management. This will involve conducting interviews with children and young people (CYPs) (10-16years) living with asthma, parents/carers of CYPs and healthcare professionals (HCPs) involved in asthma care. Interviews can be held virtually or in person in Leicester and hence some amount of local travel might be involved. This is a part-time position with opportunity for hybrid working; working days and days in office will be agreed in discussion with line manager.

## Main Duties and Responsibilities

### Research

- To work with the Leicester Asthma services, local GP surgeries and community partners to help recruit patients, family members and health care professionals for semi-structured interviews.
- To work closely with the Research Governance Office (RGO) at the University of Leicester to attend to ethical approvals and permissions to undertake the research.
- To undertake interviews with CYPs, family members and health care professionals virtually, or in person (depending on the preference of the interviewee).
- To contribute to the overall research programme using innovative research models, novel approaches and techniques.
- In agreement with the line manager, liaise with project collaborators and patient and public members (PPIE) to progress the research
- 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 develop and carry out a plan to extend an area of personal research, or contribute as a team member to the development of a broader programme, this may include contributing to the writing of research bids/grants.
- With the support of colleagues, identify opportunities to apply for fellowships and/or further project grants



## 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.

## Internal and External Relationships

Regular meetings with members of the programme research group

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

NHS patients – children & young people

NHS staff

## 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

- Have a PhD (or nearing completion) in a relevant field (e.g. public health, sociology, psychology, health services research, anthropology, or other social/health sciences with qualitative expertise).\*
- Experience of working with CYPs, either in professional, research or volunteering capacity. \*





- Significant, relevant experience conducting qualitative research (e.g. semi-structured interviews, focus groups). \*
- Experience in participant recruitment and engagement, including with patients and/or healthcare professionals. \*
- Experience in qualitative data analysis, including coding and thematic analysis. \*
- Experience of working with CYPs, either in professional, research or volunteering capacity \*
- Experience and/or knowledge of NHS ethics governance processes
- Contribution to authorship of peer-reviewed journal articles commensurate with stage of career.
- Experience working in a multidisciplinary research environment.
- Evidence of proven analytical and problem-solving capability \*
- Expertise in relevant approaches/models and analytical techniques and ability to develop new ones where required.

## 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

- Project 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 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 Disclosure with Child Workforce.





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.

