



Job Title: Research Assistant

Grade: 6

Salary: £32,296 to £34,866 per annum due to funding restrictions, pro-rata if part-time

Department: Cardiovascular Sciences

Hours/Contract: Full-time, or job share considered, fixed term contract until 28 February 2027 or 2 February 2028

Job Family: Teaching and Research

Reference: 11299

Role Purpose

The Leicester Partnership for Kidney Health Research (LPKHR) is a dynamic, multi-disciplinary research group comprising over 20 professionals dedicated to advancing clinical and laboratory studies. Our research focuses on the biomedical, clinical, and psychosocial impacts of chronic kidney disease (CKD). We explore the underlying mechanisms of these interventions and develop strategies with the aim of integrating them into clinical practice.

We are seeking a highly motivated Research Assistant to join our team (three positions available), primarily working on the exciting new project titled *'The use of neuromuscular electrical stimulation (NMES) as a treatment for sarcopenia in people on haemodialysis (STIM-HD)'*, as well as contributing to related projects within the Department of Cardiovascular Sciences and LPKHR.

Ability to travel is essential, as you will be required to visit multiple research sites, including dialysis units across the Leicester Renal Network and sites in Coventry and Birmingham.

Main Duties and Responsibilities

Research:

- To support a research team in the acquisition, evaluation and /or interpretation of data and other specialised information.
- To carry out analyses, tests and critical evaluations using agreed techniques, novel approaches and/or models, the delivery of the NMES intervention for the STIM-HD study, including training and supporting participants in the proper use of the NMES device.
- To perform physical measurements (e.g., muscle mass, strength, and function) and record relevant outcomes. Accurately enter data into secure databases, ensuring confidentiality and adherence to ethical guidelines.
- To manage biopsy and blood sample collection, if applicable, including correct handling, processing, storage, labelling, and transportation in accordance with study protocols.
- 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 work closely with the clinical research team (physicians, nurses, trial coordinators) to integrate research activities into clinical workflows, ensuring that study objectives are met.
- Regularly update the Chief/Principal Investigator, Trial Management Group (TMG), and other stakeholders on recruitment, progress, and any issues encountered.

Professional Development:

- Duties and opportunities to engage in work that support your own 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.
- Contribute to the overall department by actively participating in team, departmental, and partner meetings, contributing to discussions and decision-making processes.
- Undertake other departmental roles as may be reasonably required by the lead researchers

Internal and External Relationships

- Research teams/collaborators within and outside the University of Leicester, particularly the University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust, Diabetes Research Centre, Leicester Biomedical Research Centre (BRC) Cardiovascular Theme, part of the larger BRC, Department of Population and Health Sciences, Centre for Sarcopenia and Muscle Health, School of Sport, Health and Exercise Sciences at Loughborough University, and the National Centre for Sport and Exercise Medicine (NCSEM).
- NHS patients/research participants

Planning and Organising

- With guidance from the Principal Investigator, or equivalent, plan own work and prioritise research and project/laboratory activities on a regular basis, including co-ordinating resources and maintenance of samples and equipment.
- 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*
- Practical experience and knowledge of applying research skills and techniques to deliver outputs on time and to the required quality

Desirable

- A postgraduate degree to Master’s or doctoral level in a relevant subject*





- Experience of interacting with human participants for research purposes*
- Experience of collecting and/or processing accelerometer data
- An understanding of, or experience in, conducting physical activity and lifestyle research projects
- Experience of working in a healthcare environment*
- Knowledge of surface and intramuscular electromyography protocols and equipment handling
- Experience of biopsy handling, such as taking, processing, and analysing muscle biopsy samples in collaboration with clinical teams
- Knowledge and experience of working with diverse communities
- Knowledge or experience of working with clinical populations, particularly people with kidney disease

Skills, Abilities and Competencies

Essential

- Ability to 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*
- Team player, support broader research group
- Excellent communication skills – written and verbal*
- Excellent interpersonal skills, including effective communication with people from different scientific disciplines and different institutions across the country
- Ability to prioritise tasks within agreed work schedules*
- Commitment to continuous professional development (CPD)
- Willingness to participate in workshops and conferences to support the dissemination of results and findings
- Willingness to undertake necessary travel*

Desirable

- Well-developed understanding of health and safety regulations and procedures, particularly around clinical research

****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 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.

