Job Title: Research Associate
Grade: 7
Salary: £39,906 to £46,049 per annum, pro rata if part-time
Department: Diabetes Research Centre
Hours/Contract: Full-time, or job share considered, fixed term contract until 31 December 2028
Job Family: Teaching and Research
Reference: 10875

Role Purpose

You will be working within the Leicester Real World Evidence Unit helping to deliver on epidemiological analyses. The programme of work will contribute toward the aims of the Leicester NIHR Biomedical Research Centre, particularly the Lifestyle and Data Innovation for Multiple Long-Term Health Conditions and Ethnic Health themes. It will also support the NIHR Applied Research Collaborations – East Midlands and Leicester British Heart Foundation Centre for Research Excellence aims. You will work both collaboratively and independently as part of our research team to achieve defined milestones and produce high quality research.

The Leicester Real World Evidence Unit is based within the Diabetes Research Centre (DRC), which is internationally recognised for its research in diabetes and cardiovascular disease. The post provides an excellent opportunity for an ambitious statistician or epidemiologist to develop a strong career in lifestyle, epidemiology and cardiometabolic medicine.

Main Duties and Responsibilities

Research

- To undertake a series of epidemiological analyses investigating the relationship between lifestyle factors (e.g., physical activity, diet, sleep, physical function and capability) and health outcomes; taking responsibility for the day to day running of the planned research

- To carry out analyses, tests and critical evaluations using agreed techniques, methodologies, approaches and/or models.

- To contribute to the choice of which techniques, methodologies, approaches and/or models to apply

- To lead in the collection/application, data cleaning/wrangling, analysis and interpretation of the research data, and work autonomously to complete project milestones.

- In agreement with the line manager, liaise with project collaborators/stakeholders to progress the research

- To lead in writing up research findings for dissemination amongst the research team and broader international community, and develop ideas and contributions for future grants, technical outputs

- 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, reports and technical papers

- To develop and carry out a plan to extend an area of personal research, or contribute as a team member to the development of our broader programmes of work, which may include contributing

to the writing of research bids/grants

- To assist in supporting research students and colleagues in the use of specific methods or approaches under the direction of senior colleagues

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 contribute to collaborations

- To disseminate effectively on own specialism/research 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

- Proactively build networks and collaborations

- To support outreach activities beyond the University

Internal and External Relationships

- Regular communication with research team, line manager and Principal Investigator

- Meeting members of the department for critical discussion of the research and exchange of new ideas and approaches that might benefit the research

- Regular research team meetings for different projects

- Liaise with external collaborators

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

- PhD or equivalent (or near completion) in appropriate discipline (e.g. medical statistics, epidemiology, biostatistics, data science, etc) or the equivalent professional qualification and experience*
- Postgraduate degree in medical statistics, epidemiology, biostatistics, data science or equivalent*
- Experience of working with large datasets*
- Experience of applying and understanding traditionally applied statistics in health research, such as survival analysis, regression analysis and prognostic (prediction) models*
- Experience and/or knowledge of steps required for cleaning/wrangling data in preparation for analysis*
- Experience and ability to support a research team in the acquisition, evaluation and/or interpretation of data and other specialised information*
- Evidence of a contribution to peer-reviewed journal papers or equivalent e.g., technical report or writing a piece of software*
- Evidence of successful collaboration and liaison with external partners/stakeholders where appropriate*

Desirable

- Knowledge or qualification demonstrating understanding of relationship between lifestyle factors and health outcomes*
- Experience/knowledge of contemporary research methods for real world evidence
- Experience/knowledge of analysing data within a Trusted Research Environment (TRE)
- Evidence of contribution to successful grant applications

Skills, Abilities and Competencies

Essential

- Excellent knowledge of statistical programming and data management (Stata/R/Python)*
- Proven analytical/technical problem-solving capability*
- Effective planning and organisational skills in order to meet deadlines*
- Ability to effectively interpret large amounts of data and results*
- Ability to manage and deliver collaborative based research projects*
- Willingness and ability to work with internal and external stakeholders*
- Excellent communication skills – written and verbal, evidenced by the ability to communicate complex information*
- High level of proficiency in English*
- 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 of continued development of subject expertise*
- 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

- Ability to contribute to successfully to securing research funding where applicable

*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 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

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 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.