Job Title: Leicester British Heart Foundation Centre of Research Excellence Senior Research Associate in Epidemiology
Grade: 8
Salary: £49,559 to £55,755 per annum
Department: Leicester Real World Evidence Group, Department of Health Sciences
Hours/Contract: Full-time, fixed term contract for 24 months
Job Family: Teaching and Research
Reference: 11568

Role Purpose

You will be joining the Leicester Real World Evidence Unit to undertake a program of epidemiological research funded by the BHF Centre for Research Excellence (BHF CRE) for the Populations theme. The Leicester Real World Evidence Unit (LRWEU) is based within the Diabetes Research centre, and specialises in the use of large routinely collected data for observational studies in diabetes and cardiovascular disease. The post provides an excellent opportunity for an ambitious statistician to develop a strong career in epidemiology and cardiometabolic medicine.

This post will support our BHF CRE and be required to have expertise which aligns to this, in particular we are looking for individuals who have knowledge and experience in one or more of the following areas:

- Extraction and preparation of databases to undertake statistical analysis of cardiometabolic real-world data from classical observational studies and from electronic health records (e.g. UK Biobank, the Clinical Practice Research Datalink, and Hospital Episodes Statistics).
- Evaluation of observational studies and conducting independent research using large real-world data sets.
- Advanced analysis of longitudinal data (e.g. survival analysis, causal inference, prediction, multistate models and simulated trial methodologies), in preparation of scientific papers for publication.

The post-holder will work closely with senior academics/researchers and other team members to develop and conduct a programme of applied health research which aligns to their expertise and the requirements of the BHF CRE. They will also be expected to provide statistical support to the research studies conducted across the other areas of the Leicester RWEU. There is also an opportunity to collaborate with other key groups within the University including the NIHR BRC, Biostatistics and the Genetic Epidemiology groups.

The BHF CRE has been funded £3 million from October 2024 to October 2029 to carry out pioneering research bench to bedside and beyond and addressing questions of high relevance to the public and health system. Three speciality areas will cover medical advancements into **cardiovascular discovery**, **interventions** and **populations**. The post will be aligned and to the Populations theme. Our Populations theme will determine how cardiovascular diseases and multiple long-term conditions (MLTCs) are associated with each other. We will help identify who might benefit from interventions that target more than one condition at a time, and the combinations of treatments that different patients might require. We will work with different ethnic groups to identify which treatments are best for each group.

Our overall purpose is to translate scientific breakthroughs in these areas into diagnostic tests, preventions and life-saving treatments for our patients. We do this by creating a collaborative workspace that allows scientists and clinicians to share their findings and deliver research that is relevant to both patients and the professionals who treat them.

We are keen to increase the diversity of our academic body and encourage suitable applicants from ethnic minorities, different nationalities and other diversity groups to apply.

Main Duties and Responsibilities

Take a leading role in methodological development, application of this methodology, and observational research and quality assessment of observational research in the Real-World Evidence Unit at the Diabetes Research Centre.

Research:

- To design and deliver the research programme to meet key milestones.

- To lead in the overall research programme by providing epidemiological support, including undertaking statistical analyses and other tasks aligned with the aims of the BHF CRE and our stakeholders

- To oversee data governance, quality and analytical outputs from the research programme as appropriate and to work within Trusted Research Environments or other database specific governance systems

- To apply advanced research skills, novel approaches and expertise to contribute to the overall research programme (including by providing epidemiological support, with a focus on survival modelling)

- To actively seek opportunities to carry out multi-disciplinary research with other research groups at the University, or stakeholders external to the University.

- To contribute to research proposals and to continue or expand the research programme to secure and explore potential funding streams.

- To disseminate research/results and/or promotion of research group/expertise at national and international conferences.

- To manage and deliver collaborative research projects

- To publish research outputs which is assessed as internationally and world leading research as per the University Output Review Policy.

- To identify opportunities to apply for fellowships and/or project grants.

- To coach and mentor others in area of professional expertise.

- To provide supervision and support to PhD students and lead or co-ordinate the work of a small team of staff.

Professional Development:

- To engage in work and opportunities that support your own professional development.

Impact and Knowledge Exchange:

- To disseminate and share expertise through communication and public engagement activities.

- To represent the work of the University in the specific field locally and nationally in appropriate networks and/or in public activities.

- To contribute to research impact

Leadership and Citizenship:

- To innovate in an area of engagement activity e.g outreach, widening participation, public debate and awareness at national and/or international level

- To support outreach activities beyond the University

Internal and External Relationships

Establish/maintain collaborations with other researchers at the University of Leicester, nationally and internationally.

Participate in School/departmental and university-wide seminar and public engagement activities to stimulate dissemination of information and collaboration.

Disseminate results at national and international conferences.

Regular communication with research teams, line manager and programme research group

Planning and Organising

Plan and organise own research programme in designated area.

Plan and co-ordinate research with collaborators.

Plan and organise dissemination of information to both highly specialised academics and the lay public.

Plan, organise and submit grant applications for further and supplementary funding.

Qualifications, Knowledge and Experience

Essential

- PhD or significant equivalent/demonstrable experience in an appropriate discipline (Medical Statistics or equivalent) *
- Emerging/developing research profile and /or respected nationally/international profile for area of expertise *
- Evidence of successful collaboration and liaison with external partners where appropriate *
- Extensive experience of developing and devising models, theories, techniques and methods *
- Proven track record of delivering research on time
- Experience of managing a budget

- Evidence of contribution to successful grant applications
- Experience of working with large data sets*
- Experience in pharmacoepidemiology studies using electronic health records.*
- An advanced understanding of survival analysis*
- Post-doctoral research experience*
- Experience and ability to support a research team in the acquisition, evaluation and/or interpretation of data and other specialised information.*

Desirable

- Track record of PhD supervision and/or playing an active role in supporting postgraduate research students.
- Experience of project management of a research programme where relevant *

Skills, Abilities and Competencies

Essential

- Excellent knowledge of statistical programming and data management (Stata/R/Python)*
- Proven analytical/technical problem-solving capability*
- Evidence of developing a theoretical framework to interpret results*
- Ability to manage and deliver collaborative based research projects*
- Commitment to Personal Professional Development in subject expertise*
- Ability to contribute to successfully to securing research funding where applicable
- Evidence of working effectively as part of a team and the ability to work independently
- Evidence of working with, and building relationships, with internal and external stakeholders
- Excellent communication skills – written and verbal*
- Ability to assess resource requirements, secure and organise resources effectively
- Skills in managing, motivating and supporting colleagues
- Budget/financial planning 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

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

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.