



Job Title:	Research Fellow
Grade:	8
Salary:	£50,253 to £56,535 per annum
Department:	Global, Lifestyle and Metabolic Health
Hours/Contract:	Full-time (preferred), or part-time (minimum 30hr p/w considered) - fixed term contract for 42 months (extension likely subject to funding)
Job Family:	Teaching and Research
Reference:	12959

Role Purpose

The Diabetes Research Centre (University of Leicester) and NIHR Leicester Biomedical Research Centre Lifestyle Theme host a multidisciplinary team of internationally renowned researchers who work collaboratively to investigate how therapies used in the management of obesity and/or type 2 diabetes work to affect whole body health, either in isolation or when combined with exercise or nutrition therapies. This includes a growing portfolio of industry collaborations and funding which require complex regulatory approvals and processes (including MHRA). A flagship part of this portfolio is an ~£6M funding award from the NIHR to establish the “OPT-IN” adaptive platform trial. This platform will OPT-IN will establish a flexible, sustainable phase 2 obesity platform that can accelerate the testing of safe, effective obesity medications for people living with obesity within the UK.

The post holder will work closely with principal investigators and other senior researchers to oversee the set-up and delivery of the OPT-IN award, including contracting and programme management, delivery of the work outlined to time and target, dissemination of findings to academic and public audiences, and reporting to the funder and other relevant stakeholders. They will also contribute to applications for further funding to provide sustainability.

OPT-IN is the first large-scale obesity-focused adaptive platform trial internationally. As such the post holder will play a key role in setting up and delivering a highly novel trials infrastructure within an area of priority to the NHS.

Main Duties and Responsibilities

Research

- Lead the set-up, delivery, and management of the OPT-IN adaptive platform trial. This may include (but is not limited to) the development of study protocols, obtaining regulatory approvals, quality assurance processes, and contributing to overall project management, working within established local processes to ensure timely regulatory submissions to sponsor and MHRA.
- Working closely with the principal investigator, lead the grant management of the OPT-IN award, including contracting, coordination of work packages, milestone tracking, budget management and funder reporting.
- Provide substantial contribution to diverse research outputs, including the preparation of journal article manuscripts, conference abstracts and presentations.
- Work with industry and other partners to secure additional funding for OPT-IN





- Oversee data governance, quality and analytical outputs from the research programme as appropriate.
- Line-manage junior research and delivery team members and support the wider research team (both research staff and students).
- Participate in research management and administration processes.
- Actively seek opportunities to promote OPT-IN to multi-disciplinary researchers with other research groups at the University, or stakeholders external to the University.
- Ensure compliance with health and safety requirements in all aspects of work.

Professional Development

- Maintain a broad knowledge of up-to-date research and scholarship in relevant fields
- Identify and undertake appropriate training and personal development activities to develop research skills relevant to the studies being undertaken by the research group.
- Engage in work and opportunities that support your own professional development, including for example through participation in relevant staff development programmes.
- Develop an external profile and reputation in own field of research.

Impact and Knowledge Exchange

- Disseminate and share expertise through communication and public engagement activities.
- Contribute to building and maintaining internal and external collaborations, including with industry, academic and other partners.
- Engage in external knowledge transfer, enterprise and engagement activities which increase the external profile of the research within the LLHRG, Leicester BRC, Diabetes Research Centre and University of Leicester.
- Represent the research team at external meetings and workshops so as to improve the reputation of the group and that of the role holder.
- Contribute to innovation and impact within the LLHRG and Diabetes Research Centre, to increase external profile as a leader in experimental lifestyle research.

Leadership and Citizenship

- Design and develop the work-plan required to meet deadlines related to the principal responsibilities above, including planning and prioritising personal work load several months ahead and coordinating with other teams and individuals, whilst also adapting to accommodate new developments or research directions.
- Contribute to the overall department by attending meetings and seminars as appropriate.
- Undertake other departmental roles as may be reasonably required by the senior principal investigators or line-manager.
- Be involved in the recruitment, management and development of staff and act as a mentor to colleagues.
- Pro-actively build networks and collaborations.





- Support outreach activities beyond the University.

Teaching

- Whilst primarily a research role, the post holder may on occasion be asked to lead or assist with the development and/or delivery of lectures, seminars, tutorials and other classes or public presentations within their areas of expertise, in support of teaching or other education activities delivered by the Diabetes Research Centre.
- When doing the above, the post holder will be expected to support and comply with the University teaching quality assurance standards and procedures including the provision of such information as may be required by the University.

Internal and External Relationships

The post holder will be situated at the Leicester Diabetes Centre, located at Leicester General Hospital. They will sit within the Lifestyle Theme of the NIHR Leicester BRC (as part of the wider Leicester Lifestyle and Health Research Group), and work directly with various teams across the Leicester Diabetes Centre and BRC, as well as liaising closely with the University of Leicester Research and Enterprise Division.

Within the role, the appointee will be expected to liaise and work closely with all of the teams within the Diabetes Research Centre, external research groups that are part of the BRC Lifestyle Theme, and the other research themes across the BRC as well as significant collaborations with research staff across the University of Leicester College of Life Sciences. This may include working with groups across sites at the University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust, and with other collaborative organisations as appropriate.

The post holder will be expected to proactively build networks and collaborations across the NIHR Leicester BRC, the Diabetes Research Centre, the College of Life Sciences and the wider University of Leicester, including participation in seminar programmes/networking events to stimulate dissemination of information and collaboration. They will also be expected to seek to establish and maintain related collaborations nationally and internationally, including with industry partners, including through regular attendance and presentation at major national and international conferences in the research area.

The appointee will also be expected to liaise and work closely with all of the teams within the Diabetes Research Centre, external research groups that are part of the Biomedical Research Lifestyle Theme, and other research themes.

The post holder will also have contact with participants and their families involved in the research studies conducted by the group, including NHS patients.

Planning and Organising

The post holder will be required to manage their time effectively to deliver on the priorities of the various projects with which they are involved, designing and implementing collective workplans to meet project timelines and other deadlines. This will include project management of relevant research activity, supervision of junior members of the research team (staff and students), and coordination with other individuals and teams within and external to the Diabetes Research Centre.





They will also contribute to shaping the strategic direction of lifestyle research conducted within the LLHRG, NIHR Leicester BRC Lifestyle Theme and the Diabetes Research Centre, developing clear long-term plans for sustaining and enhancing the research programme. They may also participate in the divisional operational planning process, supporting the strategic direction of the Division and College.

When using facilities across the University, the sites of the Hospital Trust or the NIHR Leicester BRC, the post holder will have to plan well in advance to ensure all their requirements will be available for the work to be done.

Qualifications, Knowledge and Experience

Essential

- PhD in a relevant discipline*
- Expertise and research outputs in the area of exercise or nutrition physiology*
- Knowledge of processes for applying for regulatory approvals for CTIMPs*
- Ability to produce research outputs that are internationally recognised and of a quality that is aspiring to be world-leading in terms of originality, significance and rigour in time for the next REF cycle (2029)*
- Proven track record of running experimental research programmes to time and target*
- Significant research experience and skills in the research area*
- Emerging national/international profile for area of expertise
- Proficient in Microsoft Office or equivalent software, including word processing, spreadsheets, and presentations*
- Experience of successful collaboration and liaison with external partners

Desirable

- Experience in conducting experimental research in the area of type 2 diabetes, obesity or other long-term cardiometabolic conditions
- Direct experience of applying for regulatory approvals for CTIMPs, ideally using newer generations of platform designs
- Experience of developing, delivering and managing international research partnerships
- A track record of meeting the discipline benchmarks for external funding through grant capture*
- Clear forward plans for sustaining and enhancing a research programme in an area that is strategically important to the NIHR Leicester BRC Lifestyle Theme and the Diabetes Research Centre.
- Involvement in relevant internal and external committees and groups
- Experience of working with clinical populations, particularly those with or at risk of chronic metabolic disease
- Experience of managing a budget





Skills, Abilities and Competencies

Essential

- Excellent interpersonal skills, with the ability to develop and maintain networks and collaborations, and to work effectively as part of a team*
- Ability to manage and coordinate research projects*
- Ability to undertake research and administrative activities, including management and coordination of research projects and programmes*
- Ability to communicate effectively with staff and students*
- Ability to work at a high level of accuracy and at high analytical sensitivity*
- Proven analytical/technical problem-solving capability and ability to interpret analytical data*
- Excellent written* and oral communication skills
- Commitment to Personal Professional Development in subject expertise
- Ability to assess resource requirements, secure and organise resources effectively
- Ability to prioritise workload in order to meet deadlines*
- Highly motivated*
- Willingness to undertake necessary training and personal development*
- Willingness to undertake necessary travel*

Desirable

- Ability to work with senior staff, and to negotiate and influence where required
- Skills in coaching, mentoring and developing others, including students, early career researchers and colleagues
- Skills in pastoral care and motivation of students
- Well-developed understanding of Health and Safety regulations and procedures

****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. 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.

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.

