



Job Title: Research Associate
Salary: £38,205 to £44,263 per annum (pro rata if part time)
Grade: 7
Department: Diabetes Research Centre
Hours/Contract: Full time, fixed term for one year
Job Family: Teaching and Research
Job Reference: 9828

Role Purpose

We are seeking a highly self-motivated Postdoctoral Research Associate to support a range of research activities undertaken by the Psychology and Intervention Development teams in the Diabetes Research Centre, Department of Population Health Sciences and the Leicester Diabetes Centre. This is an ideal opportunity for an early-career researcher who holds a PhD degree in applied health research or psychology, who wishes to extend their research-related skills in behavior change.

The role will involve supporting a number of projects in the field of health psychology and long-term conditions such as type 2 diabetes, as well as drafting and coordinating large grant applications, and developing research outputs with a key focus in, including but not limited to, self-management, behavior change and process evaluations.

The successful candidate will carry out a range of duties including grant writing, assisting in intervention development and evaluation (such as the development of intervention fidelity tools), conducting systematic reviews, mixed-methods data analysis (mainly qualitative research), and writing and disseminating research outputs across University of Leicester and NHS interface.

This is an excellent opportunity to work with teams from various disciplines and to work collaboratively and independently as part of the Psychology team, with the aim to achieve defined milestones and produce high quality research.

Main Duties and Responsibilities

Research

- To undertake a specific role in a research project or projects, taking responsibility for some element(s) of the planned research
- To lead in the recruitment, collection, evaluation and interpretation of mixed-method research data, and work autonomously to attain project milestones. Recruitment may take place in hospital settings, and data extraction may include activities such as conducting interviews with people living long-term conditions
- To contribute to the development of self-management and lifestyle interventions
- In agreement with the line manager, liaise with trial and project managers to progress the research
- To lead in writing up grant applications for funding bodies such as NIHR, UKRI and MRC
- To lead in writing up research findings for dissemination in peer-reviewed journals
- To develop ideas and contributions for future grants





- 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
- 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
- To provide guidance to other staff and students (involved in the research programme)
- To actively seek opportunities to carry out multi-disciplinary research with other research groups at the University or stakeholders external to the University, with the approval of the Principal Investigator (PI)
- To contribute to teaching on the MSc in Diabetes and other relevant teaching programmes

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 industry collaborations
- 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
- Providing mentoring and coaching to colleagues and research students

Internal and External Relationships

- Regular meetings with the Intervention Development Team
- Regular meetings with members of the Diabetes Research Centre, the Department of Population Health Sciences, and the wider Leicester Diabetes Centre
- 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 living with long term conditions

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 in health psychology, behavioural science, social science or applied health research
- Knowledge in the management of long-term conditions, such as type 2 diabetes *
- Evidence of a contribution to peer-reviewed journal papers or equivalent *
- Evidence of a contribution to grant applications *
- Evidence of proven analytical problem-solving capability *
- Expertise in qualitative and/or quantitative mixed-methods

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

- Budget 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.

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, including DBS & occupational health clearance.

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.

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.

