

Job Title: Research Associate (PDRA)

Grade: 7

Salary: £39,906-£46,049 per annum

Department: School of Psychology and Vision Sciences

Hours/Contract: Full Time, Fixed Term

Job Family: Teaching and Research

Reference: 13778

Role Purpose

To take a key role in the generation, integration and dissemination of data for the Wellcome-funded project “ASCEND-HD: Advancing Support and Care for Emotional Needs and Distress in Huntington’s Disease”. The PDRA will work collaboratively with the Wellcome team under the supervision of the project lead, working to improve our understanding and knowledge of mental wellbeing difficulties in Huntington’s disease, creating resources for the Huntington’s community, and working with a steering group of academics, healthcare professionals and third-sector representatives.

The PDRA will undertake qualitative and quantitative research, carrying out analyses and conducting PPI work under guidance, direction and supervision, taking ownership and leading on project components at an appropriate level to the post. They will be expected to attend virtual and in-person meetings with local team members on a regular basis and will be expected to be available on campus as required for the role.

Resources Managed

- To assist with project delivery with a combined value of £2 million.
- To assist with supervision of less senior research staff and to contribute to supervision of PhD/DClinPsy students.

Main Duties and Responsibilities

Research

- To lead on collecting, evaluating and interpreting quantitative and qualitative data in relation to people with Huntington’s disease, their relatives, and healthcare staff who support them.
- To lead on carrying out analyses and critical evaluations using qualitative and quantitative approaches, including interview studies, big data analysis, and experimental data collection and evaluation.
- To contribute significantly 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, including leading on outputs to support with project delivery and own career development.
- To lead on literature searches in collaboration with the team, to inform development of novel research, evidence analyses, and relevant study protocols.
- To lead on development of applications for ethics committee approval (University of Leicester and HRA/NHS REC) as required.





- To undertake patient and public involvement and engagement work with relevant groups including neurological patient groups, carer groups, and staff consultations.
- To collaborate on relevant project work with doctoral students/trainees under the direction of line manager.

Professional Development:

- Duties and opportunities to engage in work that supports own professional development, including doctoral student supervision, teaching, and wider collaboration (to be agreed with line manager on a case by case basis, considering workload and project delivery deadlines).
- Attend suitable training courses or equivalent and be proactive in terms of continued professional development, including participation in training as part of planned grant work.

Impact and Knowledge Exchange:

- Participate in workshops and conferences to support the dissemination of research findings, including preparing and delivering presentations and workshops.
- Contribute to service evaluation of newly implemented interventions.

Leadership and Citizenship:

- Contribute to the overall success of the research programme.

Internal and External Relationships

- Communicate and liaise with colleagues and collaborators involved in projects as needed, to review and plan research activities.
 - Conduct patient and public involvement and engagement activities with third sector organisations and special interest groups, under the instruction of line manager.
 - Communicate and liaise with research collaborators, both nationally and internationally, under the instruction of line manager, to raise the profile of the research group.
 - Liaise with ethics committees and regulatory bodies as needed to ensure research is of high quality, ethically sound and of benefit to patients.
- Attend academic conferences to network and disseminate research findings, and enhance the reputation of the University and wider research program.

Planning and Organising

- With guidance from line manager, plan own work and prioritise research and project activities appropriately, leading on project components.
- Co-ordinate resources and maintenance of equipment, backing up data to secure University drives, and following data protection legislation in full.
- Effectively manage time to deliver on the priorities of the research programme with the support of line manager.
- Organise meetings with the wider research community to encourage new collaborations and maintain existing relationships with researchers, scientists and clinicians within the specialised fields relevant to the research.





Qualifications, Knowledge and Experience

Essential

- Evidence of a doctoral qualification (PhD or DClInPsy), plus additional relevant experience in a psychological/healthcare discipline (clinical or research)*
- Evidence of significant participation in research into people affected by neurological conditions in a psychological care or psychologically-oriented research context*
- Practical experience and knowledge of applying research skills and techniques to deliver outputs on time and to the required quality*
- Experience of taking a significant role on a substantial piece of formal qualitative research, including examples of leading project(s)*
- Experience and understanding of receiving consent for research studies*
- Understanding of Good Clinical Practice & GCP qualified, or willingness to undertake*

Desirable

- Experience of conducting patient and public involvement and engagement activities
- Experience of both qualitative and quantitative research methods in a psychological or healthcare context

**Criteria to be used in shortlisting candidates for interview*

Skills, Abilities and Competencies

Essential

- Demonstrated ability to handle one-to-one interviews with individuals sensitively, discussing potentially challenging and distressing information*
- Excellent interpersonal skills, to support engagement with collaborators, colleagues, and participants in studies*
- Demonstrated research potential and enthusiasm for the subject area, and enthusiasm to contribute to delivering high quality research*
- Demonstrated analytical and problem-solving skills in psychological or healthcare research*
- Evidence of continued personal development relevant to the post*
- Excellent communication skills, both written and verbal*
- Demonstrated ability to prioritise tasks and complete work to internal and external deadlines*
- Willingness to participate in workshops and conferences to support the dissemination of results and findings
- High level of proficiency in written and spoken English, sufficient to undertake research and administrative activities utilising English language materials, and to communicate effectively with staff and participants/patients in research, engagement and dissemination contexts (noting that some participants may have receptive and expressive communication difficulties and therefore clear, high-quality communication is crucial)*
- Competency in ethical approval and grant application procedures (or willingness to learn and participate in these processes)*
- Effective IT 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 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.

