

**Job Title:** Research Associate

**Grade:** 7

**Salary:** £40,704 - £46,970 per annum

**Department:** Diabetes Research Centre

**Hours/Contract:** 37.5/Full time

**Job Family:** Teaching and Research

**Reference:** 13867

## Role Purpose

We are seeking a highly self-motivated Postdoctoral Research Associate to join the Behavioural Science team in the Diabetes Research Centre, Division of Global, Lifestyle and Metabolic Health, College of Life Sciences and the Leicester Diabetes Centre. This is an ideal opportunity for an early-career researcher who holds a PhD degree in a discipline aligned to Behavioural Science, who wishes to extend their research-related skills in behaviour change, intervention development and evaluation methodologies.

The postholder will work across a portfolio of research projects in the management of long-term conditions, such as type 2 diabetes. These projects are funded by leading research funders, including NIHR. The postholder will undertake a range of research duties including grant writing, and assisting in the design and evaluation of behaviour change interventions. In addition, the candidate will be involved in mixed-methods research, including but not limited to conducting systematic reviews; qualitative data collection and analysis using established qualitative methodologies and behavioural science frameworks; contributing to the design and analysis of surveys; and writing and disseminating research outputs across University of Leicester and NHS interface.

The role requires strong organizational skills, attention to detail in research coordination and delivery and excellent analytical and communication skills.

This is an excellent opportunity to work both independently and collaboratively with multidisciplinary research teams, with the aim to achieve defined milestones, and produce high quality research. You will be based at the Leicester Diabetes Centre, Leicester General Hospital, Leicester, as your normal place of work, but you may be able to agree a pattern of regular remote working with your line manager.

The position is funded for 24 months in the first instance, with the potential for extension.

## 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 and focus groups with people living long-term conditions.
- To contribute to the development of behaviour change 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 and funding reports.
- 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 within the department and wider team.
- 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 (Distance Learning) and other relevant teaching programmes.

## Professional Development

- Duties and opportunities to engage in work that support your own professional development, such as attendance at training, webinars and conferences.

## 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 teams within the Leicester Diabetes Centre, including the Lifestyle Team and 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

## 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, or applied health research\*
- Knowledge in the management of multiple 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 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*

## 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 an [enter level of 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.

## 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, which may include occupational health clearance and DBS clearance.

## 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.

