



Job Title: Research Associate
Grade: 7
Salary: £35,326 to £38,587 pro rata per annum due to funding restrictions
Department: Health Sciences
Hours: Full time, part time (minimum 0.8FTE 30 hours per week) or job share considered
Contract: Fixed term contract to 31 August 2022
Reference: 3842

Role Purpose:

The Post-hospitalisation COVID-19 study (PHOSP-COVID) is a national consortium, led by experts at the University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust under the umbrella of the NIHR Leicester Biomedical Research Centre. PHOSP-COVID seeks to investigate the long terms impacts of COVID-19 on the health outcomes for patients who were hospitalised due to the virus (www.phosp.org).

Based in the Social Science Applied to Healthcare Improvement Research (SAPPHIRE) group of the Department of Health Sciences, you will work with a researcher already in post to use social science theory and qualitative methods to undertake additional NIHR-funded work linked to PHOSP-COVID. This work is with patients and healthcare professionals about the organisation and delivery of care pathways for patients who had been hospitalised with COVID-19 post their discharge from hospital.

Resources Managed

Responsible for the project management of the tasks and responsibilities assigned to the post holder. You will be need to work collaboratively with the researcher already in post, and with members of the wider PHOSP-COVID team as necessary, which may include attending, preparing papers for, and contributing to meetings.

Main Duties and Responsibilities	% Time
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collect qualitative data in a number of purposively selected case study centres through in-depth interviews with patients and healthcare professionals, and via documents, ensuring these are completed to a high standard and to a tight timescale. 	30%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan and project manage qualitative work with patients and healthcare professionals about the organisation and delivery of care pathways for patients who had been hospitalised with COVID-19 post their discharge from hospital, including the appropriate use of topic guides, information sheets, consent forms and other tasks required for research governance purposes. 	15%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lead on using social science theory to conduct high quality analysis and interpretation of the qualitative data collected. 	15%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lead on writing up the qualitative research findings, including integrating them into wider project reports as appropriate and as separate papers for submission to high quality health and social science journals. 	15%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liaise with the study team, and the wider PHOSP-COVID team as necessary, which may include attending, preparing papers for, and contributing to meetings. 	5%





<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Represent the PHOSP-COVID project and the SAPPHIRE group at meetings and conferences to a standard that will enhance the reputation of each and effectively engage stakeholders. 	5%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be an active member of the SAPPHIRE group, contributing to group meetings and seminars as appropriate and by offering advice within own area of expertise to staff and students. 	5%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to the SAPPHIRE group’s teaching responsibilities (e.g. through delivery of lectures/seminars and/or marking) in areas of relevant expertise. 	10%

Internal and External Relationships

- The post-holder will be line-managed by Professor Natalie Armstrong (Health Sciences).
- The PHOSP-COVID Chief Investigator is Professor Chris Brightling (Respiratory Sciences).
- Regular interaction with members of the PHOSP-COVID team.
- Liaison with other internal and external University departments and NHS organizations as required to deliver the research.

Planning and Organising

- Prioritise tasks within agreed work schedules.
- Plan and deliver research activity as outlined in the project protocol.
- Contribute to the development and implementation of the department’s research strategy.

Qualifications, Knowledge and Experience

Essential

- Educated to degree level, with first degree at 2.1 or above*
- PhD, or in the process of submitting a PhD, in a relevant social science discipline*
- Significant experience of qualitative research methods, including qualitative data analysis*
- Experience of qualitative data analysis software, ideally NVivo*
- Experience of conducting literature reviews *

Desirable

- Experience of research project management*
- Experience of writing up social science research for publication in high quality journals, ideally as a lead author*
- Experience of research in healthcare settings *
- Knowledge of patient and public involvement in healthcare research and practice
- Knowledge of issues related to respiratory services

Skills, Abilities and Competencies

Essential

- High level skills in the collection, analysis and presentation of qualitative data
- High-level skills in writing reports and writing for publication
- Ability to work under pressure, and with attention to detail, ability to prioritise workload





- Ability to manage workload effectively across different projects
- Excellent teamwork skills
- Excellent IT skills
- Excellent organisational skills
- Ability to communicate effectively with people from a wide variety of backgrounds
- Ability to respond appropriately to supervisory direction, to work without supervision where appropriate, and to work to agreed deadlines
- Willingness to undertake necessary travel to research sites and have access to a car
- Full UK Driving Licence
- High level of proficiency in English, sufficient to undertake research, teaching and administrative activities utilising English Language materials and to communicate effectively with staff and students*

Desirable

- Willingness to engage in professional development

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

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.

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 indemnity arrangements and the appointee must comply with all such arrangements, including occupational health clearance.

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.

Equality and Diversity

We believe that equality, 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.

