



Job Title: Research Assistant in Genetic Epidemiology
Grade: 6
Salary: £28,331 to £32,817 per annum
Department: Health Sciences
Hours/Contract: Full-time fixed term contract until 17 September 2021
Reference: 2230

Role Purpose

To support association analyses for large scale datasets. These could include genome-wide association studies or resequencing studies, *in silico* functional follow-up of identified variants, or risk modelling for verified discoveries, with a particular focus on respiratory traits.

To undertake independent research that contributes to new intellectual understanding, under direct supervision and guidance.

You will join an internationally-renowned Wellcome Trust and MRC funded team (led by Prof. Martin Tobin and Prof. Louise Wain) undertaking original research using unique “big data” from local studies (particularly the EXCEED study) and from collaborative national and international studies (including international consortium-based studies of lung function, smoking behaviour, drug response and other complex traits), employing large-scale data (phenotype and genotype) to inform understanding of disease determinants, target validation and disease prediction.

Resources Managed

Responsible for the project management of the tasks and responsibilities assigned to the post holder, including liaison with local and international collaborators.

Main Duties and Responsibilities

- Perform analyses of large-scale genome-wide association studies, and bioinformatic analyses to inform fine mapping and functional insights for associated regions, under direct supervision. This will include in-depth analysis and quality-control of phenotype data (EXCEED study, UK Biobank and international studies) and genome sequencing or genotype array data, employing statistical genetic approaches, development and management of relevant databases, version control, report-writing.
- Undertake literature searches relevant to developing new projects or to placing new research findings into context.
- Develop new knowledge relating to statistical analyses of genetic association studies and maintain up-to-date knowledge required to interface effectively with other researchers in the program.
- Work closely with investigators and collaborators. This will include regular meetings with team members, between investigators (teleconferences/videoconferences and face-to-face meetings) and occasional attendance at national or international meetings where relevant.
- Contribute as a junior partner to the writing and publication of project reports, presentations and research papers

Internal and External Relationships

Communication with the line manager and co-investigators and collaborators on a regular basis





Initiate and maintain communications with collaborators

Attend meetings in the UK and Internationally that are relevant to the research program

Planning and Organising

The post holder will need to plan ahead to ensure the research is delivered in accordance with the overall research objectives. This may include defining tasks and schedules, organising meetings and preparation of reports.

The post holder will be expected to adapt plans to accommodate new developments (recognising that research is not always predictable).

Qualifications, Knowledge and Experience

Essential

- Degree level qualification in a relevant discipline*
- Experience or, at least, basic knowledge of epidemiological study design and data analysis*
- Experience of statistical genetic analyses and basic knowledge of human genetics*
- Good knowledge of R statistical software*
- A working knowledge of UNIX as well as Windows operating systems*
- Sound computer programming skills*

Desirable

- MSc in a relevant discipline (or the equivalent in professional qualifications and experience) *
- Practical experience in medical statistics, data science, or a related field*
- Experience of bioinformatics

Skills, Abilities and Competencies

Essential

- 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
- Sound statistical skills
- Excellent written communication skills*
- Excellent verbal communication skills
- Ability to work independently and as part of a research team.

Desirable

- Excellent time 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.

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.

VITAL

The University encourages all staff to live our [VITAL values](#) which are:

Valuing People, Innovators, Together, Accountable, Leaders.

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.

