

## 1 Advertisement

### **Post Title: NIHR Research Fellow in Health Protection in Adult Social Care**

**School/Department:** Centre for Dementia Studies, Brighton and Sussex Medical School

**Hours:** Full time hours considered up to 1 FTE. Requests for flexible working options will be considered (subject to business need).

**Contract:** fixed term until 14 December 2023

**Reference:**10220

**Salary:** starting at £35,333 to £42,155 per annum

**Placed on:** 08 November 2022

**Closing date:** 05 December 2022. Applications must be received by midnight of the closing date.

**Expected Interview date:** TBC

**Expected start date:** 15 December 2022

- We are seeking a postdoctoral researcher with good quantitative expertise and excellent communication skills to work on a study of the impact of Covid-19 testing and outbreaks in care homes for older adults.
- We are pleased to invite applications for a fixed-term Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Health Protection in Adult Social Care based at the Centre for Dementia Studies, Department of Neuroscience, Brighton and Sussex Medical School.
- The post is funded by the [NIHR Health and Social Care Delivery Research \(HSDR\)](#) as part of a multidisciplinary project involving a pragmatic cluster randomised controlled trial of asymptomatic testing compared to standard testing regimes in care home staff as part of the [Vivaldi Study](#). It offers an excellent opportunity in several aspects of academic life, including conducting research on a range of relevant public health topics, developing collaborations and enhancing project management skills.
- The appointed fellow will provide direct research support to [Professor Jackie Cassell](#), Deputy Dean and [Dr Dorina Cadar](#) in their work as part of a multidisciplinary collaboration. The post holder will assess the impact of outbreaks and outbreak control measures on the social care-related quality of life (SCRQoL) of residents in care homes for older adults, using the Adult Social Care Outcomes Tool. This work will be undertaken in close partnership with a qualitative workstream focussing on staff experience led by [Professor Paul Flowers](#).
- The successful candidate will be part of an interdisciplinary team at Brighton and Sussex Medical School led by Professor Jackie Cassell, Deputy Dean and Dr Dorina Cadar, Senior Lecturer in Cognitive Epidemiology and Dementia.
- The post holder must be highly self-motivated, organised and with good interpersonal and time management skills. They must be strongly proactive, knowledgeable, and able to solve complex problems while knowing when to engage support from colleagues and research investigators.

- The appointed candidate will work in a vibrant research environment at the Centre for Dementia Studies at Brighton and Sussex Medical School and in the Department of Primary Care and Public Health, where Cassell is based. They will also work within a wider network supported by [NIHR Applied Research Collaboration Kent, Surrey Sussex](#), locally and elsewhere in our region.

Please contact Dr Dorina Cadar at [d.cadar@bsms.ac.uk](mailto:d.cadar@bsms.ac.uk) for informal enquiries.

*Please note that this position may be subject to [ATAS clearance](#) if you require visa sponsorship.*

For full details and how to apply, see our [vacancies page](#)

[www.brighton.ac.uk/jobs](http://www.brighton.ac.uk/jobs)      [www.bsms.ac.uk](http://www.bsms.ac.uk)

*The University of Sussex values the diversity of its staff and students, and we welcome applicants from all backgrounds.*

## 2. The School/Division

### About Centre for Dementia Studies and Department of Primary Care and Public Health

The [Centre for Dementia Studies \(CDS\)](#) is a joint venture between BSMS and Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust aiming to deliver a programme of applied health research in individuals with cognitive impairment or dementia that will build the evidence base on care, treatment, and causation. Its programme of work in applied health research, education and policy in dementia is designed to improve the quality of life of people with the condition and to support health and social services in the development and evaluation of new and improved models of health service delivery. The centre works in collaboration with a number of partners, including the Universities of Brighton and Sussex, patient and carer groups, primary care providers, clinical commissioning groups, local authority social service departments, private care providers, wider regional and national universities, and other organisations.

The [Department of Primary Care and Public Health](#) coordinates general practice, public health and research methods teaching throughout the undergraduate medical curriculum and offers key statistics and research methods support to staff and students throughout the medical school. The key objectives are to improve the health and wellbeing of the population and enhance high-quality research to inform patients and clinicians and guide the development of health services. The department of primary care and public health brings together various disciplines to address clinical and healthcare challenges. These include general practice, public health, epidemiology, statistics, health informatics, psychology and behavioural medicine in an ongoing dialogue between teaching, research and clinical work. There are close collaborations with regional NHS partners and public health teams in local authorities to influence health policy and strategy and to advocate for the health needs of the community.

Please find further information regarding the Centre for Dementia Studies, Neuroscience Department and Department of Primary Care and Public Health at BSMS:

<https://www.bsms.ac.uk/research/neuroscience/cds/index.aspx>

<https://www.bsms.ac.uk/research/neuroscience/index.aspx>

<https://www.bsms.ac.uk/research/primary-care-and-population-health/index.aspx>

### **3. Job Description**

**Job Description for the post of:** Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Health Protection in Adult Social Care

**Department:** Centre for Dementia Studies, Department of Neuroscience

**Section/Unit/School:** Brighton and Sussex Medical School

**Location:** Trafford Centre, Falmer Campus, Brighton and Sussex Medical School, University of Sussex

**Grade:** Postdoctoral Research Fellow Grade 7

**Responsible to:** Dr Dorina Cadar at the Centre for Dementia Studies Department of Neuroscience, Brighton and Sussex Medical School

**Responsible for:** Research activities required to deliver our workstream in the VIVALDI study.

Research Fellow I is an early career-grade research position. Post-holders will be expected to contribute to the work of the research team and develop their research skills with support from more experienced members of staff.

#### **PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTABILITIES**

To take a leading role on a workstream assessing the impact of Covid-19 testing, outbreaks, and outbreak control measures on social care-related quality of life in a sample intervention and control care homes for older people using the Adult Social Care Outcomes Tool (ASCOT), contributing to designing; collecting, analysing, and interpreting data; writing up and disseminating findings.

#### **KEY RESPONSIBILITIES**

##### **1. Research, Scholarship & Enterprise**

- 1.1 Develop research objectives and proposals for own or joint research, at acceptable levels, with assistance if required.
- 1.2 Conduct research projects individually and in collaboration with others.
- 1.3 Analyse and interpret research findings and draw conclusions on the outcomes.
- 1.4 Produce high-quality research outputs for publication in monographs or recognised high-quality journals, or performance/exhibition, as appropriate, and contribute to the School's REF submission at acceptable levels of volume and academic excellence.
- 1.5 Contribute to the preparation of proposals and applications to external bodies, for example, for funding purposes.
- 1.6 Individually or with colleagues, explore opportunities for enterprise activity, knowledge exchange income and/or consultancy, where permissible.

- 1.7 Build internal contacts and participate in internal networks and relevant external networks in order to form relationships and collaborations.
- 1.8 Continually update knowledge and understanding in field or specialism and engage in continuous professional development.

## **2. Teaching & Student Support**

- 2.1 Undertake teaching duties at Brighton and Sussex Medical School (BSMS), if required.
- 2.2 Assist in the assessment of student knowledge and supervision of student projects if required.
- 2.3 Assist in the development of student research skills, for example, as part of a postgraduate supervision team.

## **3. Contribution to School & University**

- 3.1 Attend and contribute to relevant project and BSMS meetings.
- 3.2 Undertake additional duties as required by the Principal Investigator and/or Head of School.

## **4. Role-specific duties**

1. To take a leading role on a workstream assessing the impact of Covid-19 testing, outbreaks, and outbreak control measures on social care-related quality of life in a sample intervention and control care homes for older people using the Adult Social Care Outcomes Tool (ASCOT), contributing to design; collecting, analysing and interpreting data; writing up and disseminating findings.
2. To contribute collaboratively to a wider process evaluation of intervention and control groups using mixed methods to establish the acceptability, feasibility and impact of a testing intervention and refine programme theory detailing how the intervention works.
3. To engage in individual and/or collaborative research activity resulting in high-quality publications; and to develop research knowledge exchange and funding income individually or in collaboration with others, as appropriate, depending on the size and scope of the bid.
4. To contribute to Brighton and Sussex Medical School teaching activities as appropriate.

This Job Description sets out the current duties of the post, which may vary from time to time without changing the general character of the post or the level of responsibility entailed.

### **INDICATIVE PERFORMANCE CRITERIA**

- A PhD or equivalent scholarly or relevant professional activity
- Pursuing a line of independent research within a research group.
- Publishing research (either from a recently completed PhD or new original research).
- Other forms of externally recognised professional practice of creative output of a standing equivalent to regular publication of original research.

- Initiating, developing or participating in links between the University and external bodies such as business and industry, the professions, community organisations and policy-makers.
- Evidence of successful engagement in teaching or supervision, as appropriate.

#### **4. Person Specification**

##### **ESSENTIAL CRITERIA**

1. Normally educated to doctoral level, or other equivalent qualification, or appropriate level of experience, as appropriate to the discipline (see role-specific criteria below).
2. Evidence of engagement in high-quality research activity.
3. DBS check is required as working with vulnerable adults
4. Excellent presentation skills, with the ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, with students, colleagues and external audiences.
5. Ability to work individually on own initiative and without close supervision and as part of a team.
6. Ability to exercise a degree of innovation and creative problem-solving.
7. Excellent organisational and administrative skills.
8. Ability to prioritise and meet deadlines.
9. Excellent IT and statistical skills.

##### **ESSENTIAL ROLE-SPECIFIC CRITERIA**

1. Doctoral level qualification or equivalent in psychology, sociology, or other relevant disciplines, including quantitative methods for the analysis of social or health-related data.
2. Evidence of excellent communication skills with a wide range of communities, academic colleagues and stakeholders, including dispersed project teams or consortia, and ability to work in an interdisciplinary research team.
3. Experience working or researching in complex settings, inexperienced in research.
4. Experience working closely with research participants who have cognitive impairment

5. Familiarity with the Mental Capacity Act and its implications for research, including processes including approaches to consent and participation.
6. Experience in quantitative data collection, management and analysis
7. Evidence of having conducted literature reviews, systematic reviews or evidence synthesis.
8. Evidence of engagement with implementation research in public health or social care, with related research skills such as process evaluation, community mapping, stakeholder consultations etc.
9. Excellent project management skills with the ability to solve complex problems.
10. Willingness to travel for data collection, academic collaboration, community engagement and other purposes.

## **DESIRABLE CRITERIA**

1. Evidence of successfully using mixed methods in researching health (quantitative and qualitative).
2. Emerging track record of high-quality publications in reputable journals and other appropriate media of similar standing.
3. Experience in generating research or knowledge exchange income.