



UNIVERSITY
OF SUSSEX



1 Advertisement

Post Title: Research Assistant

School/department: School of Psychology

Hours: full time or part time hours considered up to a maximum of 0.8 FTE - 29.2 hours

Requests for flexible working options will be considered (subject to business need). There is an expectation that the successful candidate will work largely during core hours in order to engage with NHS professionals and service users.

Location: Brighton, United Kingdom

Contract: fixed term until 01 May 2024

Reference: 10669

Salary: starting at £32,411 per annum to £36,333, pro rata if part time

Placed on: 31 March 2023

Closing date: 18 April 2023. Applications must be received by midnight of the closing date.

Expected Interview date: 28 April 2023

Expected start date: To be confirmed

This is an exciting opportunity to be the Research Assistant on the mixed-methods *CRIS-ARMS* study, which is funded by the Applied Research Collaboration- Kent Surrey and Sussex.

The study aims to implement a novel risk calculator to identify people who may be at greater risk for severe mental illness, provide them and their mental health support worker with targeted psychoeducation materials and evaluate outcomes in terms of offers and engagement with self-help and treatment approaches, mental health and well-being.

A qualitative evaluation will explore service user and staff perceptions of the approach to identification of those at greater risk, which uses a computer algorithm in Electronic Health Records. We will also conduct an evaluation of estimated health economic benefits.

The post holder will work across the University and Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation trust, where the study will be conducted. They will have a fantastic opportunity to gain experience across research settings, of recruitment, data collection, quantitative and qualitative analysis approaches, write-up and dissemination. It is anticipated that recruitment will include young people referred to Early Intervention in Psychosis services and adults in community services. At least 2 papers will be produced from this project.

Candidates should have experience of working in the NHS, research experience, skills in psychological assessment, excellent interpersonal and communication skills and a good understanding mixed-methods studies. The successful applicant will join the School of Psychology and become a member of the Sussex Psychosis Research interest Group. They will have an honorary NHS contract.

The postholder will be supervised by Professor Kathryn Greenwood (Principal Investigator) and will work closely with the local project team in Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust and the broader study team. The team as a whole incorporates experts in psychology, psychiatry, digital technologies, qualitative and quantitative analysis and health economics.

Please contact Prof Kathryn Greenwood k.e.greenwood@sussex.ac.uk Tel: 07879 551385 for informal enquiries.

The University is committed to equality and valuing diversity, and applications are particularly welcomed from women and black and minority ethnic candidates, who are under-represented in academic posts in Science, Technology, Engineering, Medicine and Mathematics (STEMM) at Sussex.

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

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

Please note: The University requires that work undertaken for the University is performed from the UK.

2. The School / Division

Please find further information regarding the school/division at <https://www.sussex.ac.uk/schools/psychology/> and about Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust here [Our research :: Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust](#)

3. Job Description

Job Description for the post of: Research Assistant

Section/Unit/School: Psychology

Location: Pevensey 1/2

Grade: 6

Responsible to: Professor Kathryn Greenwood, Professor of Clinical

Psychology

Key contacts:

Members of research group, members of faculty within the School and University, members of Sussex Partnership NHS R&D Department and NHS clinical staff.

Role description:

Research Assistant is a pre-Doctoral career-grade research position. Post-holders will be expected to contribute to the work of the research team, and also to develop their research skills with support from more experienced members of staff.

This research assistant will conduct all day to day aspects of the project in the NHS including liaising with the project lead, researchers, patients and staff, under supervision of the PI, recruiting participants, collecting and recording data, conducting analyses and writing reports.

PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTABILITIES

1. To observe and assist with individual and/or collaborative research activity and contribute to the production of research outputs for publications.

4. Person Specification

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Research, Scholarship & Enterprise

- 1.1 With support from the Principal Investigator, develop research objectives and contribute to the planning of the research project
- 1.2 Conduct research activity under supervision of the Principal Investigator, and in collaboration with others.
- 1.3 Assist with the analysis and interpretation of research findings and contribute to discussions on conclusions and outcomes.
- 1.4 Contribute to the writing of reports and other dissemination activities under the supervision of experienced researchers.
- 1.5 Contribute to the preparation of research ethics and data management strategies, under guidance from the Principal Investigator to ensure compliance with ethical approval and data protection legislation.

- 1.6 Present information on research progress and outcomes to relevant bodies under the supervision of the Principal Investigator.
- 1.7 Plan own day-to-day research activity within the framework of the agreed programme.
- 1.8 Learn about the publication process and contribute to research outputs for publication in monographs or recognised high-quality journals, or performance/exhibition, as appropriate.
- 1.9 Continually update knowledge and understanding in field or specialism, and engage in professional development.

2. Teaching & Student Support

- 2.1 Assist in the supervision of student projects and provide guidance to those assisting in the research.

3. Contribution to School & University

- 2.1 Attend and contribute to relevant School and project meetings.
- 2.2 Undertake additional duties, as required by the Principal Investigator and/or Head of School.

4. Role-specific duties

- 4.1 Attend regular supervision sessions with the PI
- 4.2 Lead on recruitment of NHS staff, other non-NHS mental health support staff, and service users to the research project
- 4.3 Collect baseline and outcome data from both staff and service users
- 4.4. Set-up and maintain accurate and up to date databases
- 4.5 conduct qualitative thematic analysis following training, with support from the PI
- 4.6 draft summary reports
- 4.7 Contribute to papers

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

INDICATIVE PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

- Under the supervision of the Principal Investigator, conduct experiments/research to assist with project aims, with emphasis on training.
- Undertake research by preparing, setting up, conducting and recording the outcomes.
- Manage and analyse data, and prepare written reports and summaries.
- Maintain and store project files and equipment as per health and safety and data regulations.
- As part of career development, contribute to the preparation of journal articles based on the research with support from the Principal Investigator.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA

1. Normally educated to degree level, or other equivalent qualification, or relevant level of experience, as appropriate to the discipline (see role-specific criteria below).
2. Good presentation skills, with the ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, with colleagues and external audiences.
3. Ability to work independently (under supervision by the Principal Investigator), and as part of a team.
4. Ability to exercise a degree of innovation and creative problem-solving.
5. Excellent organisational and administrative skills.
6. Ability to prioritise and meet deadlines.
7. Excellent IT skills.
8. Ability to follow guidance of team leaders.

ESSENTIAL ROLE-SPECIFIC CRITERIA

1. Experience of working in the NHS in a research or psychology assistant or support worker role
2. An Enhanced DBS check is required for this role

DESIRABLE CRITERIA

1. Experience of conducting research experiments.
2. Experience of working with people with psychosis and adults with other mental health conditions such as anxiety and depression
3. Experience of working with Patient and Public Involvement/Lived Experience Advisory Panels