



1 Advertisement

Post Title: Research Fellow

School/department: School of Psychology

Hours: Part-time hours up to a maximum of 0.5 FTE. Requests for flexible working options will be considered (subject to business need).

Location: Brighton, United Kingdom

Contract: fixed term for 24 months

Reference: 20780

Salary: starting at £36,333 to £43,155 per annum, pro rata if part-time.

Placed on: 30 May 2023

Closing date: 27 June 2023. Applications must be received by midnight of the closing date.

Expected interview date: To be confirmed

Expected start date: From 1st September 2023

We are seeking applications from a highly motivated post-doctoral research scientist to join an exciting 2.5-year research project on an Economic and Social Research Council grant examining the cognitive mechanisms that explain the relationship between sleep disturbance and depression symptoms in teenagers.

The project will deliver a feasibility, pilot randomised controlled trial, of CBT-informed sleep workshops in secondary schools, and will measure outcomes for depression and sleep, as well as examining cognitive pathways to change.

The grant is led by [Dr Faith Orchard](#) and the work will take place at the University of Sussex and West Sussex secondary schools. The post-holder will liaise with other members of the research team, namely Dr Maria Loades (University of Bath) and the [West Sussex Mental Health Support Team in Schools](#)

- The post-holder will support Dr Orchard in the day-to-day running of the project, primarily holding responsibility for coordination of young people and parent lived experience advisory groups, co-production of research materials, participant recruitment and data collection (including actigraphy).
- The post-holder will support all other stages of the research process including ethical approvals and pre-registration of studies, through to supporting quantitative and qualitative analyses, and preparation of research papers and presentations.
- The post would be of interest to someone wishing to conduct research in the field of applied youth mental health research. The post-holder would need to have excellent project management skills (e.g. coordinating a research project, organising events), be able to engage and communicate clearly with a young audience, and be able to work independently.

Please contact Dr Faith Orchard: f.orchard@sussex.ac.uk 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.

“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](#)

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/>

3. Job Description

Job Description for the post of: Research Fellow in Psychology

Department: Psychology

Section/Unit/School: School of Psychology

Location: University of Sussex, Falmer, Brighton, BN1 9Qh

Grade: Research Fellow I, Grade 7

Responsible to: Dr Faith Orchard, Principle Investigator, Lecturer in Psychology

Responsible for: n/a

Key contacts: Members of research group, members of faculty within the School and University.

Role description: 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 also to develop their research skills with support from more experienced members of staff.

PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTABILITIES

1. To engage in individual and/or collaborative research activity resulting in high-quality publications; and to develop research funding and knowledge exchange income individually or in collaboration with others, as appropriate, depending on the size and scope of the bid.
2. To contribute to School teaching activities.

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, 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 School and project meetings.
- 3.2 Undertake additional duties, as required by the Principal Investigator and/or Head of School.

4. Role-specific duties

- 4.1 Support all stages of the research project, including the pre-registration of studies, development of research protocols/ethical approvals, data collection and analysis, through to the preparation of research papers.

- 4.2 Recruitment and running of the young people and parent lived experience advisory groups.
- 4.3 Support collaborative development of age-appropriate research materials.
- 4.4 Carry out quantitative longitudinal analyses of self-report measures and actigraphy, and analyses of qualitative interview data.
- 4.5 Attend and present research outputs at, for example, team meetings, seminars, and conferences.
- 4.6 Prepare manuscripts for publication of the project findings and theoretical reviews in international peer-reviewed journals.
- 4.7 Engage with national and international media to disseminate project findings to the general public.
- 4.8 Undertake training and skill development activities to enhance research skills (as needed).
- 4.9 Carry out any other duties commensurate with the grade and purpose of the post

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

- 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.

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. Excellent presentation skills, with the ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, with students, colleagues and external audiences.
4. Ability to work individually on own initiative and without close supervision, and as part of a team.
5. Ability to exercise a degree of innovation and creative problem-solving.
6. Excellent organisational and administrative skills.
7. Ability to prioritise and meet deadlines.
8. Excellent IT skills.

ESSENTIAL ROLE-SPECIFIC CRITERIA

1. Have or be about to obtain a PhD in a relevant area, such as Psychology.
2. Clearance from an enhanced DBS check.
3. Interest in research relating to youth mental health.
4. Experience of recruiting participants to research studies.
5. Experience of working with children or adolescents.
6. Experience of public engagement or Patient and Public Involvement.
7. Ability to discuss sensitive topics with research participants.
8. Excellent understanding of a range of relevant research techniques and scientific literature.
9. Advanced skills in statistical analysis of behavioural data, using packages such as R or SPSS/STATA.
10. Ability to work to deadlines imposed by the larger remit of the project.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA

1. Experience of co-produced research practices.
2. Experience of qualitative research analysis.
3. Experience in the field of mental health research.
4. Emerging track record of high-quality publications in reputable journals and other appropriate media of similar standing.