

1. Advertisement

Post Title: Research Fellow, (CORAL Study)

Department: Brighton and Sussex Medical School, Global Health & Infection

Hours: Part-time hours considered up to a maximum 0.8 FTE. Requests for flexible working options will be considered (subject to business need).

Location: Brighton, University of Sussex campus, United Kingdom.

Contract: Fixed term 3 years

Reference: 20868

Salary: starting at £44,414 to £52,841 per annum pro rata if part time.

Placed on: 13 June 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: 01 August 2023

"This vacancy is only open to those currently employed by the University of Sussex and University of Brighton (Including those employed through Reed, Chartwells, and SEF)."

The HIV group of the Brighton and Sussex Centre for Global Health Research is looking for a highly motivated Research Fellow. You will be expected to contribute to the work of the HIV research team and to develop their research skills with support from experienced members of staff.

Specifically, you will manage a UK-wide observational research study that examines the use of 2-monthly injectable cabotegravir/rilpivirine in people living with HIV applying qualitative and quantitative methodology.

This will entail:

- Setting up and managing collaborations with 10-12 NHS clinics,
- Protocol training and supporting collaborators to recruit and follow up participants in line with the protocol.
- Responsible for setting up the database and overseeing high quality data management throughout the study.
- Support conduct of in-depth interviews or focus group discussions with healthcare workers and study participants.
- You will have the opportunity to present study results in conferences and scientific literature.

Informal enquiries about the projects should be directed to Dr Fiona Cresswell (f.cresswell@bsms.ac.uk) / +441273 523087.

Candidates are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the range of research activity undertaken from the HIV group and collaborators within BSMS.

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](#) or visit www.brighton.ac.uk/jobs
www.bsms.ac.uk

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

The School / Division

Senior leadership and management The Vice-Chancellor is the senior academic officer and, as Chief Executive, is responsible to the University Council for management of the University. He is supported by an executive group which includes the three Pro-Vice-Chancellors, the Registrar and Secretary, the Director of Finance and the Director of Human Resources. The Heads of the Schools of Studies at Sussex report to the Pro-Vice-Chancellors.

The Registrar and Secretary heads the Professional Services of the University. In addition, under the University Statutes, the Registrar and Secretary is Secretary to the University Council. The Director of Finance reports to the Vice-Chancellor. The Director of ITS reports to the Registrar and Secretary, and the Librarian reports to one of the Pro-Vice-Chancellors.

The Medical School The School is an equal partnership between the Universities of Sussex and Brighton together with NHS staff throughout the South East Region. The arrangements for the School's governance reflect this approach and students are awarded joint degrees of both Universities.

The School is fully committed to the principles of *GMC: Standards of Promoting Excellence*; it endorses the value of medical education in a multi-professional context, and promotes the highest possible standards in its three pivotal components of teaching, clinical practice, and research (both fundamental and applied).

There is an annual undergraduate intake of approximately 200 students. BSMS has proved exceptionally popular and in recent admissions rounds has continued to achieve one of the highest application rates of any UK

medical school. Students spend their first two years primarily on the universities' campuses at Falmer; thereafter the focus shifts to the associated teaching hospitals in Brighton and the surrounding area. There are purpose-built teaching facilities in all areas.

The curriculum emphasises early clinical involvement, a broad range of experience and a firm foundation in basic science. Led by the Medical Education Unit, there is a wide range of teaching and learning approaches as appropriate for the particular circumstances; we are not committed to a single method of delivery. Feedback from the National Student Survey has demonstrated an exceptionally high level of student satisfaction, with BSMS being consistently in the top 3 performing schools in the country with scores of over 90%. The BSMS 5-year strategic plan (2022-2025) placed continued growth in research capacity as a key priority. We have made significant investments in research infrastructure, including a world-class Clinical Imaging Sciences Centre (CISC) housing a 3T MRI (Siemens Prisma), 1.5T MRI (Siemens Avanto) and a PET-CT scanner and a Clinical Investigation & Research Unit (CIRU) dedicated to patient orientated research and early clinical trials. There has been a rapid increase in postgraduate research students and research income has more than doubled over the last five years.

Following the appointment of Professor Malcolm Reed as Dean in December 2014, the Medical School has undergone a strategic reorganisation into the following Departments, established from the beginning of the 2016/17 academic year:

- Clinical and Experimental Medicine
- Global Health and Infection
- Neuroscience
- Primary Care and Public Health
- Medical Education

Administration. The Medical School's Administration is led by Mr Peter Pimblett-Dennis as the Medical School Secretary. The School's 60+ support staff offer support to a range of functions including curriculum

development and delivery, admissions, library and IT, communications, student welfare, human resources, research and finance.

The Universities The Universities of Brighton and Sussex have formed a highly effective and successful partnership that has resulted in the creation of this first new medical school in the South East region outside of London. Each institution has its own distinct culture and each is proud of its history and achievements but they have a long and successful history of collaboration.

Research and teaching Both universities are committed to excellence in teaching and research. Sussex is a progressive university delivering innovative thought and action, with a worldwide reputation for excellence in research and discovery. Its distinctive approach leads to the development of high-quality new research which crosses traditional boundaries, benefits and enriches society, and influences policy at international, regional and national levels. Sussex research has a positive impact on people's lives. In the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2014-15, Sussex was ranked 4th in the UK and 34th in the world for research influence.

The results of the government-commissioned Research Excellence Framework (REF) in 2014 show that over 75% of research activity at Sussex is categorised as 'world leading' (4*, 28%) or 'internationally excellent' (3*, 48%) in terms of originality, significance and rigour, whilst 98% of research activity at Sussex is categorised as either 'world-leading', 'internationally excellent' or 'internationally recognised'.

The University of Brighton has a long and distinguished history of applied research. This serves to sustain and nourish its mission to help form professional and vocational careers. Ultimately, the university aims to transform the lives and experiences of people and their environments with [research that matters](#). In the REF2014, 92% of its research was judged to be world-leading or internationally excellent in terms of the

impact it makes, putting it in the top 25% for the sector. 38% of the university's work in the Health Sciences was rated as world-leading.

BSMS made a major contribution to its host universities' submissions in the most recent Research Excellence Framework (REF2014). The majority of BSMS staff who were submitted contributed to Psychology, Psychiatry and Neuroscience, and Biological Sciences at the University of Sussex, both ranked 10th, or the joint submission with the University of Brighton (Allied Health Professionals, Dentistry, Nursing and Pharmacy – ranked 27th). A smaller number of academics were submitted with Sociology and English at Sussex.

University Hospitals Sussex NHS Foundation Trust University Hospitals Sussex (UHSussex) is the regional teaching hospital working across four sites: the Royal Sussex County Hospital in Brighton, the Princess Royal Hospital in Haywards Heath, Worthing Hospital in Worthing and St Richard's Hospital in Chichester. The Brighton campus includes the Royal Alexandra Children's Hospital and the Sussex Eye Hospital, and the Haywards Heath campus includes the Hurstwood Park Regional Centre for Neurosciences.

In May 2014 the UK Government agreed the release of £420m to redevelop the Royal Sussex County Hospital site. The plans will see the site's 19th century buildings replaced with new, modern facilities for the delivery of healthcare, for teaching and for research.

Job Description for the post of Research Fellow (CORAL Study)

The HIV group of the Brighton and Sussex Centre for Global Health Research is looking for a highly motivated Research Fellow. As a Fellow, you will play a crucial role in contributing to the advancement of our research initiatives and will have the opportunity to enhance your own research skills under the guidance of experienced staff members. Specifically, you will manage a UK-wide observational research study that examines the use of 2-monthly injectable cabotegravir/rilpivirine in people living with HIV applying qualitative and quantitative methodology.

This will entail setting up and managing collaborations with 10-12 NHS clinics, protocol training and supporting collaborators to recruit and follow up participants in line with the protocol. You will be responsible for setting up the database and overseeing high-quality data management throughout the study. You will also support conduct of in-depth interviews or focus group discussions with healthcare workers and study participants. You will have the opportunity to present study results in conferences and scientific literature.

Job Title:	Research Fellow (CORAL study – cabotegravir and rilpivirine real world experience – a UK-wide observational study of injectable treatment for HIV)
Grade:	Grade 8
School:	Brighton and Sussex Medical School
Location:	University of Sussex campus
Responsible to:	Principal Investigator through to Head of School
Direct reports:	Prof Jaime Vera Rojas, Professor in HIV Medicine Dr Fiona Cresswell, Academic Clinical Lecturer, HIV Medicine
Key contacts:	Members of research group, members of faculty within the Department, School and University,
Role Description:	The HIV group of the Brighton and Sussex Centre for Global Health Research is looking for a highly motivated Project Manager. The Post-holder will be expected to contribute to the work of the HIV research team, and to develop their research skills with support from experienced members of staff. Specifically, the post-holder will work on a UK-wide observational research study that examines the use of 2-monthly injectable cabotegravir/rilpivirine in people living with HIV applying qualitative and quantitative methodology.

HIV Clinical Research Group

Brighton has a high HIV sero-prevalence (13.7% in men who have sex with men) and has one of the largest cohorts of HIV positive individuals in the UK with over 2350 patients currently under follow up. Outpatient services are located at the Lawson Unit and inpatients are currently cared for in a 5-bedded ward – Courtyard 6. There are strong links with

neighboring clinics via the Sussex HIV Network, including those in Hastings, Eastbourne, Crawley, Worthing and Chichester. The department has a large clinical research unit based in the Elton John Centre in Sussex House on the Royal Sussex County Hospital site. The research unit is nationally and internationally recognized for its contribution to HIV research and participates in a large number of HIV studies, both commercially sponsored and funded by external bodies supporting both local and collaborative studies, PhD students from both GUM/HIV and other disciplines which overlap, and other clinical academic posts. The unit strives to collaborate further and proactively engage a Sussex research network. The department is managed by Ms Lisa Barbour. The pharmaceutical clinical trial portfolio is led operationally by Dr Amanda Clarke, and the academic lead for HIV is Prof Jaime Vera Rojas. More information about the work in HIV and Sexual Health can be found here: <https://www.bsms.ac.uk/research/global-health-and-infection/research-areas/hiv-and-sexual-health.aspx>

HIV is one of the strongest research areas within the Kent, Surrey and Sussex. The current research portfolio centres around the following areas:

- HIV and ageing [SEP]
- HIV and the Brain
- Global Health and HIV
- Phase 2/3/4 development of antiretroviral agents [SEP]
- HIV prevention strategies [SEP]
- COVID prevention, treatment and vaccine studies

The Global Health and Infection Department

The department works in close partnership with our parent universities (the Universities of Brighton and Sussex) to develop novel opportunities for research in order to help improve health and health equity globally.

We collaborate with the [Centre for Global Health Policy](#) at the University of Sussex and with the prestigious [Institute of Development Studies](#) (IDS), on the University campus. Sussex, with IDS, was recently ranked the top University in Europe for Development Studies by the QS University World Rankings, second only to Harvard globally. Opportunities to collaborate

with colleagues at these institutions are facilitated through a Global Health Network that meets regularly and organises a seminar series and an annual conference.

We also work in partnership with community organisations, universities and non-governmental organisations based locally and internationally. For instance, we have a Health Link with the Medical School and University Teaching Hospital in Lusaka, Zambia, which supports educational activities such as staff and student exchanges, and we are now developing a similar link with the Universidad del Valle de Guatemala.

As part of the Brighton and Sussex Centre for Global Health Research we have research partnerships with academic institutions in seven countries

<https://www.bsms.ac.uk/research/global-health-and-infection/research-areas/index.aspx>

We are responsive to the needs identified by our partners and strive to grow alongside our partners in our capacity for research and research management.

PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTABILITIES

1. Coordinating a national observational cohort study conducted with NHS HIV clinics
2. Overseeing initial regulatory submissions (ethics/HRA/sponsorship) and amendments
3. Setting up agreements with NHS study sites
4. Developing case report forms, the electronic data capture system, questionnaires and other study materials.
5. Overseeing site staff trainings, site activation and the smooth recruitment at study sites to reach recruitment target.
6. Ensuring that the study is conducted according to the protocol and that the accruing data is complete and accurate through an ongoing process of QA/QC.
7. Conducting the focus groups discussions with healthcare workers and the in-depth qualitative interviews with people living with HIV
8. Overseeing the qualitative in-depth interviews with participants.
9. Collaborate and communicate with key stakeholders, including the research teams at sites
10. Writing reports for Sponsor, funder and other parties
11. Handling safety reporting as required
12. Managing internal and external communications for the study

13. Dissemination of findings to the public and in the scientific literature.
14. Undertake any other reasonable duties that may be requested by the study leads or head of division, as consistent with grade, including assisting with other projects.

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. Contribute to the writing of reports and other dissemination activities.
- 1.5. Contribute to the preparation of proposals and applications to external bodies, for example for funding purposes.
- 1.6. Build internal contacts and participate in internal networks and relevant external networks in order to form relationships and collaborations.
- 1.7. Continually update knowledge and understanding in field or specialism and engage in continuous professional development.
- 1.8. Oversee qualitative interviews with people living with HIV using long-acting injectable antiretrovirals, and conduct focus-group discussions with healthcare professionals delivering the regimen.
- 1.9. Undertake focus group discussion with healthcare workers in collaborating clinics
- 1.10. Oversee transcription and analysis of qualitative interview data supported by NVIVO software for qualitative data analysis.

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

- 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.

General

- Ensure the highest standard of record keeping, maintaining accurate and appropriate research patient records, including strict confidentiality.
- Attend departmental and other meetings as appropriate.
- As duties and responsibilities change, the job description may be reviewed and amended in consultation with the post-holder.
- The postholder will carry out any other duties as are within the scope, spirit and purpose of the job as requested by the line manager (Prof Jaime Vera Rojas and Dr Fiona Cresswell).
- The postholder will actively follow BSMS policies of the Universities of Sussex and Brighton, including Equal Opportunities policies.

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

- Obtaining and managing regulatory approvals for the study
- Setting up agreements and research activities at collaborating institutions
- Overseeing successful recruitment of the required number of participants (at least n=150 on long-acting ART and 50 on oral ART) across the various research sites.
- Setting up the database and ensuring that incoming data is clean and complete. Troubleshooting data issues as they arise.
- Ensuring that the study is conducted within Good Clinical Practice guidelines.
- Manage and analyse data and prepare written reports and summaries.
- Initiating, developing or participating in links between the University and external bodies such as industry, community organisations and policy-makers.
- Maintain and store project files and data as per regulations.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA

1. Educated to PhD, or other equivalent qualification, or appropriate level of experience, as appropriate to the discipline (see role-specific criteria below).

2. Experience in research project management
3. Experience in data management
4. Evidence of engagement in high-quality research activity
5. Excellent organisational skills and administrative skills.
6. Good presentation skills, with the ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, with colleagues and external audiences.
7. Ability to work individually on own initiative and without close supervision, and as part of a team.
8. Ability to exercise a degree of innovation and creative problem-solving.
9. Ability to prioritise and meet deadlines.
10. Excellent IT skills (Word, Teams, Sharepoint, REDCap, Endnote).

ESSENTIAL ROLE-SPECIFIC CRITERIA

The post provides an outstanding opportunity for a researcher to undertake clinical research in HIV and epidemiology. The post-holder will join a rich research environment within The Brighton and Sussex Centre for Global Health, The HIV Clinical Research Unit, Elton John Centre located at the Royal Sussex County Hospital. They will be located at the Research Building of Brighton and Sussex Medical School, University of Sussex Campus at Falmer.

The successful applicant will be expected to have a good understanding of qualitative and quantitative research methods including interview skills and methods of analysis applicable to qualitative research. The applicant must be able to manage relationships with research partners and research participants. Must be familiar with developing and managing study documents, case report forms, data management and budgets. Applicants must have as a minimum a MSc in a relevant medical discipline. Relevant research experience, demonstrated by participation in research projects, specifically in HIV, health services research, or a related field is desirable.

1. Good understanding of quantitative and qualitative research methods including interview skills and methods of analysis
2. Experience with electronic data capture and data management
3. Experience of managing multi-site projects
4. Clear understanding of the sensitivities surrounding research with people living with HIV

DESIRABLE CRITERIA

1. Relevant research experience, demonstrated by participation in research projects, specifically in HIV, health services research, or a related field
2. Experience of undertaking research working with people living with HIV
3. Able to prioritize competing workloads; grasp new information and learn new skills quickly; and be self-supporting