1 Advertisement

Post Title: Research Fellow
School/department: School of Education and Social Work
Hours: Full time or part time hours considered up to a maximum of 1 FTE. Requests for flexible working options will be considered (subject to business need).
Contract: Fixed term until 30 September 2022
Reference: 3624
Salary: Fixed salary of £36,914 per annum.
Placed on: 28 April 2020
Closing date: 28 May 2020. Applications must be received by midnight of the closing date.
Expected start date: 1 October 2020 or as soon as possible thereafter

We are looking to appoint a dedicated Research Fellow for an exciting research study on ethnic inequalities in health care utilisation and care quality among people with multiple conditions. The study is a collaboration between The University of Sussex and The Health Foundation, and aims to contribute to reducing ethnic inequalities in health care quality, by providing solid evidence regarding the inequalities that currently exist.

Due to life course experiences of racial discrimination and socioeconomic disadvantage, ethnic minority people have a greater risk of multiple conditions than the majority populations. Younger age at onset of conditions also seems to be a feature among ethnic minority people. This matters for people living with multiple conditions as they may have reduced quality of life, higher mortality risk, and higher treatment burden. It also matters for the NHS because of the link between multiple conditions and use of primary and secondary care services.

The Research Fellow would contribute to the evidence base to inform health system leads about the care needs of their ethnic minority populations and identify where care could be improved and ethnic inequalities addressed. They would be based at the University of Sussex and collaborate with partners at the Health Foundation – an independent charity committed to bringing about better health and health care for people in the UK.

The post holder will carry out innovative quantitative analyses that will provide novel information regarding ethnic inequalities in health care access and quality, and the factors that underlie these inequalities. The appointee will benefit from the strong connections between The University and Sussex and The Health Foundation, and will receive support and mentorship across both institutions. We believe this is a unique opportunity to work across sectors and benefit from a successful and supportive collaboration.

The ideal candidate will have experience in data analysis, and hold a PhD or equivalent in Quantitative Sociology, Epidemiology, Psychology, or a related quantitative discipline. Applicants must have a strong background in advanced quantitative methods, knowledge of statistical analysis, and previous experience of using Stata, R, or equivalent for statistical data analysis and modelling. A track-record of research outputs (e.g. publications,
presentations, thesis/dissertation, public engagement activities) and previous experiences with electronic health records is desirable.

The candidate must have an ability to work collaboratively as part of a team and be able to function independently and effectively with appropriate supervision.

For more information, please email Dr Laia Bécares (l.becares@sussex.ac.uk).

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.

To apply please submit your CV and a cover letter describing how you meet the essential and desirable criteria. For full details see our vacancies page

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

2. **The School / Division**

The School of Education and Social Work was created in August 2009, bringing together two long-established and thriving departments – the Department of Education and the Department of Social Work & Social Care. The School’s over-arching strategic goal is to maintain and further develop a successful and sustainable environment that contributes at the highest level to the disciplines of Education and Social Work. The School has a commitment to contributing to social justice at the global, international and national levels in terms of our research, teaching and professional education activities. Connections with other disciplines - such as psychology, health, law and sociology - are foundational for our success in research, political and policy environments. A developing stream of interdisciplinary activity unites the work of colleagues in both Departments, with common interests including the study of childhood and youth, wellbeing across the lifecourse, pedagogy and inter-professional policy and practice.

The Department of Social Work and Social Care has 25 members of staff, delivering a portfolio of programmes and continuing professional development activities, alongside a thriving research programme. The Department’s research is focused around three research centres, providing vital hubs of activity and focal points for collaborative work and shared engagement, including with other University centres, such as the Rudd Centre:

- **Centre for Innovation and Research in Childhood & Youth** (CIRCY) is jointly hosted with the Department of Education, and brings together expertise from across the University in the fields of childhood, youth and family studies.

- **Centre for Innovation and Research in Wellbeing** (CIRW), launched in 2015, brings together research, scholarship and expertise on wellbeing across the University, building on growth in academic research and service development in this area. With extensive national and international links, CIRW is establishing itself as a leading interdisciplinary, intercultural, innovative and international centre in the field of wellbeing. It focuses on key areas such as mental health, ageing, disability, children, place and environment, cultural diversity, spirituality and migration.

- **Centre for Innovation and Research in Social Work** (CSWIR) brings together social work scholars, professionals and students to provide a distinctive ground for research and innovation focusing on the changing nature of social relations of social work and other social action interventions.
3. Job Description

Job Description for the post of: Research Fellow

Department: Social Work and Social Care

Section/Unit/School: School of Education and Social Work

Location: Essex House

Grade: 7.3

Responsible to: Dr Laia Becares, Senior Lecturer in Applied Social Sciences

Responsible for:

4. Person Specification

CORE JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title: Research Fellow in Quantitative Social Sciences

Grade: Research Fellow I, Grade 7.3

School: Education and Social Work

Location: Essex House

Responsible to: Principal Investigator through to Head of School

Direct reports: n/a

Key contacts: Laia Bécares, Senior Lecturer in Applied Social Sciences

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.

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, if required.

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 Gaining understanding of new datasets.
4.2 Quantitative analysis of electronic health records and large-scale health and social surveys.

4.3 Interpretation of research results.

4.4 Writing open source code to a high standard for data derivation and analysis.

4.5 Regular engagement with the relevant scientific and policy literature.

4.6 Dissemination of findings via publications in peer-reviewed journals, project reports, and conference presentations, policy briefings, blogs and social media.

4.7 Engaging with stakeholders, including patient groups and health system leads.

4.8 Regularly discussing results and progress with colleagues and the supervisors and planning future directions with team members.

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.

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. Demonstrable experience in leading an independent piece of research.

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. PhD or equivalent in Quantitative Sociology, Epidemiology, Psychology, or a related quantitative discipline.
2. Willingness to spend time at the offices of the Health Foundation (London) to get familiar with study datasets.
3. Experience in working with major/large health datasets, including with electronic health records, for advanced quantitative data analysis.
4. Ability to get familiarised with a range of data sources in a short period of time
5. Experience in using Stata, R, or equivalent for data analysis and an ability to learn quickly and apply new methods.
6. Understanding the theoretical and empirical literature and relevant UK policy in relation to healthcare inequality and ethnicity.
7. Ability to communicate new and complex information effectively, both verbally and in writing, engaging the interest and enthusiasm of the target audience, (including public engagement activities).
8. Ability to present research results at group meetings and conferences.
9. Ability to write up research results for publication in leading peer-viewed journals.
10. Ability to work proactively with colleagues in other work areas/institutions, contributing specialist knowledge to achieve outcomes.

**DESIRABLE CRITERIA**

1. Emerging track record of high-quality publications in reputable journals and other appropriate media of similar standing.