1 Advertisement

Post Title: Research Assistant
School/department: Brighton and Sussex Medical School
Hours: part time hours considered up to a maximum of 7.3 hours. Requests for flexible working options will be considered (subject to business need).
Contract: fixed term until April 2022
Reference: 5534
Salary: starting at £30,046 to £33,797 per annum, pro rata
Placed on: 26 February 2021
Closing date: 16 March 2021. Applications must be received by midnight of the closing date.
Expected Interview date: 22 March 2021
Expected start date: April 2021

We are looking for a highly motivated Research Assistant on an NIHR ARC KSS-funded project, which aims to co-produce pathways to mental health services with and for people living with HIV (PLWH) in Kent, Surrey and Sussex (KSS).

This is a pre-Doctoral career-grade research position, with an opportunity to gain hands-on experience on an applied health research project that aims to improve service and patient outcomes.

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. Given the part-time nature of the role, international students are eligible.

Specific objectives of the study are:

1) To establish a KSS Coalition for Living Well with HIV. This Coalition will provide critical input in all stages of the study.

2) To examine gaps in access to existing commissioned mental health services, through a large-scale survey of PLWH in Kent, Surrey and Sussex.

3) To co-design pathways for linkage to mental health services with and for PLWH in KSS.

The Research Assistant will organise Coalition for Living Well with HIV meetings, maintain communication with multi-sectoral research partners, contribute to the study protocol and a follow-on study protocol, and manage and analyse data.
The post offers opportunities to co-author and lead on peer-reviewed papers. The successful candidate will also receive mentorship for furthering their research careers and/or applying for a PhD.

The role requires the following skills and experience:

- MSc in a relevant social or medical science discipline
- Demonstrable interest in HIV or mental health
- Experience in and knowledge of survey methodology
- Quantitative data analysis skills
- Excellent literature reviewing skills

To apply, please submit an application, CV and Cover Letter outlining how you meet the criteria.

Please contact Dr Marija Pantelic, m.pantelic@bsms.ac.uk for informal enquiries.

For full details and how to apply see our vacancies page

www.brighton.ac.uk/jobs 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

Please find further information regarding the school/division at Brighton and Sussex Medical School

3. Job Description

Job Description for the post of: Research Assistant: Living well with HIV

Department: Department of Medical Education

Section/Unit/School: BSMS

Location:

Grade: 6

Responsible to: Dr Marija Pantelic

Responsible for: NA

Job description

PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTABILITIES
1. To observe and assist with individual and/or collaborative research activity on the ARC KSS Living Well with HIV study, and contribute to the production of research protocols and outputs for publications.

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 Support the organizing and planning of the *Coalition for Living Well with HIV* meetings

4.2 Organise and facilitate workshops

4.3 Contribute to the survey design and quantitative data analysis

4.4 Proactively engage with the Coalition, the study team and literature to help shape participatory research methodologies

4.5 Conduct literature reviews to inform the study procedures and follow-on grant applications

**INDICATIVE PERFORMANCE CRITERIA**

- Under the supervision of the Principal Investigator, conduct 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.
- Maintain active communication with study partners

4. **Person Specification**

**ESSENTIAL CRITERIA**

1. Normally educated to degree level, or other equivalent qualification, or relevant level of experience, as appropriate to the discipline (e.g. psychology, social science, global health, public health)

2. Good presentation skills, with the ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, with colleagues and external audiences.

3. Experience of managing and analysing quantitative data, using SPSS, Stata or equivalent software
4. Experience of working with marginalised communities, preferably people living with HIV or people with mental health difficulties

5. Experience of conducting literature reviews, ideally with knowledge of systematic reviews

6. Ability to work independently (under supervision by the Principal Investigator), and as part of a team.

7. Ability to exercise a degree of innovation and creative problem-solving.

8. Excellent organisational and administrative skills.

9. Ability to prioritise and meet deadlines.

10. Excellent IT skills.

11. Ability to follow guidance of team leaders.

**DESIRABLE CRITERIA**

1. An understanding of issues affecting quality of life among people living with HIV

2. Familiarity with NHS commissioning processes and the civil society sector within Kent, Surrey and/or Sussex is desirable

3. Experience of publishing research outputs would be an advantage

4. A track record of using social media for knowledge exchange would be an advantage

5. Experience of working effectively in multidisciplinary teams including non-academics