



1 Advertisement

Post Title: Research Assistant

School/department: School of Psychology

Hours: Full time considered up to a maximum of 36.5 hours per week.

Requests for flexible working options will be considered (subject to business need).

Contract: fixed term for 12 months

Reference: 9299

Salary: starting at £31,411 to £35,333 per annum, pro rata if part time

Placed on: 01 August 2022

Closing date: 16 August 2022. Applications must be received by midnight of the closing date.

Expected Interview date: TBC

Expected start date: 1st October 2022.

This post holder will join an exciting project team which brings together experts from Psychology, Cardiology, Engineering, and Computer Science, across the UK's leading universities and clinical research centers. This project is led by Professor Tim Chico at the University of Sheffield, and the post-holder will be based at the University of Sussex, Brighton.

Funded by Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, the "Digital Health: A Digital Twin to improve holistic community-based diagnosis of heart disease" project aims to design a Digital Twin harnessing data from mobile technologies (via smartphones and wearable devices) to improve the diagnosis of heart disease and learn how to communicate the data back to both patient and clinician to inform health decision-making.

Central to this project is the understanding of the intricate link between mental and physical health and learning how to incorporate mental health measurements into heart disease diagnosis and management.

The post-holder will be responsible for coordinating the Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) element of the research project. This will include:

- conducting systematic reviews of the literature;
- developing interview schedules and
- applying for ethical approval for research activities;
- conducting focus groups with people with lived experience of heart disease and clinicians involved in their care;
- analysis of interview data;

- dissemination of findings to key stake-holders;
- supporting recruitment across the project activities;
- liaising with established PPI group
- working with the research team to ensure that the voice of those with lived experience of heart disease are at the heart of the project.

Please contact Dr Faith Matcham, F.Matcham@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 Assistant

Department: Developmental and Clinical Psychology

Section/Unit/School: School of Psychology

Location: University of Sussex, Falmer, UK

Grade: 6

Responsible to: Lecturer in Psychology

Responsible for: N/A

- 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.

PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTABILITIES

1. To observe and assist with individual and/or collaborative research activity and contribute to the production of research 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 Seek relevant literature and summarise evidence base on the use of Digital Twins in heart disease.

4.2 Drive and encourage research participation in project activities.

4.3 Write qualitative study protocol collaboratively with work-package leads and lead on gaining ethical approval.

4.4 Conduct focus groups with people with heart disease and cardiologists.

4.5 Lead on analysis of qualitative interviews

4.6 Assist with identifying early barriers to adoption of Digital Twins.

4.7 Be involved in the writing of high-quality reports and academic papers.

4.8 Liaise with established Patient and Public Involvement Groups to inform all aspects of the project.

4.9 Contribute, as required, to other activities or studies and occasionally perform other general tasks as they arise, such as administration, data entry or data management tasks.

4.10 Establish and maintain good working relationships with project collaborators.

4.11 Collaborate with others in writing for publication.

4.12 Present on project progress at seminars, conferences, meetings, when required.

4.13 Organise regular project meetings and seminars.

4.14 Contribute to the planning of reports and papers for publication.

4.15 Prioritise and manage own workload

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.

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 (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), 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.
9. DBS clearance

ESSENTIAL ROLE-SPECIFIC CRITERIA

1. A first degree in Psychology or other health-related subject.
2. Experience in collecting and analysing qualitative data.
3. Experience using nVIVO or other qualitative analysis software
4. Experience presenting scientific information to non-scientific audiences
5. Willingness to travel across the UK to conduct focus groups
6. Willingness to update skills and participate in appropriate training

DESIRABLE CRITERIA

1. Experience of conducting research experiments.
2. A master's degree in psychology or other health-related subject
3. Evidence of producing high-quality written reports/publications for conferences or peer-reviewed journals.
4. Experience of recruiting clinical populations to research studies.