Research Fellow in Epidemiology (Fixed Term)

Department of Primary Care and Public Health
Part-time (4 days per week, 0.8 FTE), Fixed term for 12 months
Salary range: starting at £32,004 and rising to £38,183 pro-rata, per annum. It is normal to appoint at the first point of the salary scale.
Expected interview date: Week commencing 20 March 2017
Expected start date: as soon as possible

*** Previous applicants need not apply ***

Applications are invited from highly motivated post-doctoral graduates in epidemiology or closely related discipline (i.e. social science, public health, medical statistics, or equivalent) to work as a Research Fellow with Professor Anjum Memon in the Department of Primary Care and Public Health.

The post-holder will provide support for the continuation, completion and development of existing research projects in epidemiology/public health, and development of new projects in areas of chronic disease epidemiology, with a focus on cancer epidemiology. The post requires a high degree of personal initiative, attention to detail, and excellent organisational, research (quantitative and qualitative), data analysis and scientific writing skills.

The post-holder will be expected to engage in individual and collaborative research activity resulting in high-quality conference presentations and publications in peer-reviewed journals; and to develop research proposals and grant applications to obtain research funding and knowledge exchange income as appropriate.

The post-holder will also contribute to School teaching activities, if required.

Contact for informal discussion about the post:
Prof Anjum Memon (a.memon@bsms.ac.uk; T: 01273 644442)

Closing date for applications: 03 March 2017

For full details and how to apply see:

www.sussex.ac.uk/jobs       www.brighton.ac.uk/jobs       www.bsms.ac.uk

We are committed to equality of opportunity

The Universities are 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, mathematics, medicine and engineering at Sussex and Brighton.
Job Title: Research Fellow in Epidemiology

Grade: Research Fellow I, Academic Research Grade 7

School: Brighton and Sussex Medical School

Division/Location: Department of Primary Care and Public Health (Mayfield House, University of Brighton, Falmer Campus, Brighton)

Job Reference: 1393

Duration: Fixed term for 12 months
Part-time: 4 days per week, 0.8 FTE

Responsible to: Professor Anjum Memon

Direct reports: Professor Anjum Memon

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, at acceptable levels, with assistance if required.

1.2 Conduct research projects individually and in collaboration with the team.

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 Actively build internal contacts and participate in internal networks and relevant external networks in order to form relationships and research 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 in epidemiology/public health, 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 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 Head of the Department / School.

4. Role-specific Duties

4.1 Work with Professor Anjum Memon to develop and expand the epidemiology/public health research portfolio with a focus on chronic disease epidemiology (including cancer, diabetes, smoking cessation).
4.2 Contribution will be required at all stages of the research process, including literature search/review, protocol/questionnaire development, preparation and submission of grant application, data collection/entry, management and analysis, and writing draft conference abstracts/papers for publication.

4.3 Analyse cross-sectional/ecological/case-control/cohort study data using MS Excel, SPSS and/or Stata.

4.4 Interpret research findings and draw conclusions.

4.5 Conduct systematic review / meta-analysis.

4.6 Identify sources of funding and contribute to the preparation of research grant proposals and applications to external bodies for funding purposes.

4.7 Develop research proposals for collaborative research with the team.

4.8 Analyse descriptive epidemiology data using MS Excel, SPSS and/or Stata.

4.9 Make presentations at conferences, or exhibit work in other appropriate events of a similar standing and identify ways to disseminate research outputs informally via the internet, the media and other forms of public engagement.

4.10 Produce high-quality research outputs for presentation at conferences and publication in peer-reviewed journals.

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 or collaborative research within the research team.

- Regularly presenting and publishing scholarly work and research (in conferences, peer-reviewed journals, monographs, book chapters) 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.
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 or contribution in high-quality research activity.

3. Excellent presentation skills, with the ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, with 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. Postgraduate qualification or other equivalent qualification in epidemiology or relevant quantitative health related sciences, such as social science, or public health, or medical statistics, or equivalent.

2. Experience of using MS Excel, SPSS and/or Stata statistical programmes for data management and analyses.

3. Excellent epidemiology data analysis and presentation skills, using MS Excel, SPSS and/or Stata.

4. Excellent quantitative data analysis skills and experience of multivariate analysis.

5. Ability to undertake systematic reviews and meta-analysis.

6. Ability to draft proposals/applications in collaboration with co-researchers for research funding.

7. Ability to draft, critique, and edit research papers in collaboration with co-researchers for academic publication.

8. Knowledge of research governance and quality assurance issues.
9. Evidence of contribution to the process of obtaining competitive/peer-reviewed research support funding and collaboration in significant research projects with other institutions.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA

1. Emerging track record of publication in peer-reviewed journals and other appropriate media of similar standing.

2. Experience of generating research or knowledge exchange income.

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 intake to undergraduate medicine of approximately 138 students. BSMS has proved exceptionally popular and has regularly achieved 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. A wide range of teaching and learning approaches are employed, tailored to 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 amongst the top 10 performing schools in the country with scores of over 90%.

The research undertaken at BSMS aims to make a genuine contribution to the evidence and science underpinning clinical practice, and to benefit people and patients in their health and wellbeing. We expect our key domains of research strength to be recognised on the international stage and these are represented by the new departments of Global Health and Infection (including HIV and sexual health) and Neuroscience (including mental health and neurology). We have made significant investments in research infrastructure, including a world-class Clinical Imaging Sciences Centre (CISC) housing a 3T and 1.5T MRI and a PET-CT scanner and a Clinical Investigation & Research Unit (CIRU) dedicated to patient-orientated research and early clinical trials.

Following the appointment of Professor Malcolm Reed as Dean in December 2014, the Medical School has undergone a strategic review and is currently undergoing reorganisation into the following Departments which will be fully established for the academic year 2016/17:

- 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 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 2016, Sussex was ranked 23rd in the UK and 140th 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 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.

Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals (BSUH) is the regional teaching hospital working across two sites: the Royal Sussex County Hospital in Brighton and the Princess Royal Hospital in Haywards Heath. 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.

Revised August 2016 (PP-D)