SHORE-C Group

Research Fellow (II): Medical/Health Statistician/Psychologist

Fixed term, 2 years, full time

Salary range: starting at £39,324 and rising to £46,924 per annum

Previous applicants need not apply

We are seeking to appoint a Research Fellow to join the Sussex Health Outcomes Research and Education in Cancer (SHORE-C) unit at the University of Sussex. This is an exciting opportunity for an experienced researcher in applied statistics and/or psychology to become involved in the analysis of psychosocial data from the largest ever cancer screening trial in the UK. The SHORE-C unit is based in the Brighton and Sussex Medical School, and for the last 15 years it has collected vast amounts of data pertaining to health and ovarian cancer screening, sexual activity, mental health. Current research areas include analysis of quality of life in cancer trials, patient preferences for different treatments, cognition, communication and other interventional studies. The appointee would be working in a dynamic multidisciplinary team including cancer psychologists, clinical trial coordinators, data managers and statisticians.

The successful candidate will use their expertise in the analysis of large data sets and statistics to undertake large-scale analysis of the rich and diverse UKCTOCS psychosocial data. The post-holder would develop and carry out independent research in collaboration with Professor Dame Lesley Fallowfield and Dr Val Jenkins (SHORE-C), and Dr Konstantin Blyuss (Department of Mathematics). They would be responsible for preparation of reports, writing papers for publication in peer-reviewed journals, presenting their findings at meetings and research conferences.

Applicants are expected to have a PhD or equivalent qualification in Medical or Applied Statistics, Psychology, Epidemiology or related discipline.

Detailed understanding and knowledge of statistical techniques, as well as experience in using specialized software, such as R, for statistical analysis of large data sets from clinical and/or public health data systems is absolutely essential. Applicants should be able to demonstrate a track record of high-quality research publications, and have excellent interpersonal, oral and written communication skills with the ability to communicate statistical results to non-experts.

The post is offered as a fixed-term appointment for 2 years.

Closing date for applications: 7 November 2016

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.
Division: Brighton & Sussex Medical School (BSMS)
Section / Unit: Sussex Health Outcomes Research and Education in Cancer (SHORE-C)
Location: SHORE-C, University of Sussex campus, Falmer
Job Reference: 968
Grade: Research Fellow II, Grade 8
Responsible to: Director & Deputy Director of SHORE-C & Senior Lecturer in Mathematics
Responsible for: n/a

Purpose of the post:

Research Fellow II is a career-grade research position. Post-holders will be expected to take a senior role within a research team, and to have demonstrable experience handling big data sets and good statistical knowledge. Their primary role would be analysis and writing but they would also need to contribute to future grant applications. They will also be expected to provide support and guidance to less experienced members of staff.

Principle Accountabilities:

To engage in individual and/or collaborative research activity resulting in high-quality publications; and to contribute to obtaining research funding and knowledge exchange income as appropriate.

To contribute to School teaching activities.
Key Responsibilities:

1  Research, Scholarship & Enterprise
   1.1  Contribute to the development of School research strategy and themes. Contribute to the development of SHORE-C research strategy and themes (currently under review).
   1.2  Develop research objectives and proposals for own or joint research at acceptable levels.
   1.3  Conduct research projects individually and/or in collaboration with others.
   1.4  Assess, interpret and evaluate outcomes of research, and develop ideas for their application.
   1.5  Produce high-quality research outputs that have impact in the field, 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.
   1.6  Lead small research projects and/or identified parts of a larger project, including supervising the work of others and managing or monitoring a research budget.
   1.7  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.
   1.8  Identify sources of funding and secure or contribute to the process of securing bids.
   1.9  Identify and secure opportunities for enterprise activity, knowledge exchange income and/or consultancy where permissible.
   1.10 Actively build internal and external contacts, and play a key role in internal networks and relevant external networks in order to, for example, identify sources of funding, secure student placements, and build relationships for future activities.
   1.11 Contribute to a relevant national professional body or recognised events.
   1.12 Continually update knowledge and understanding in field or specialism, and engage in continuous professional development.
   1.13 Conduct risk assessments, and take responsibility for the health and safety of others, if required.

2  Contribution to School & University
   2.1  Attend and contribute to relevant School and project meetings.
   2.2  Mentor less experienced colleagues, supporting them in developing their research techniques, and advising on personal development.
   2.3  Undertake additional duties, as required by the Director & Deputy Director of SHORE-C & Senior Lecturer in Mathematics.

3  Role-specific duties
   3.1  Liaise closely with Professor Dame Lesley Fallowfield, Dr Val Jenkins and Dr Konstantin Blyuss from the Department of Mathematics to agree research objectives and plans, gather input and advice, and provide regular updates to ensure goals are met.
   3.2  Review current literature on health screening, ovarian cancer screening, sexual activity, mental health, psychological morbidity.
   3.3  Perform statistical analysis of data.
   3.4  Liaise with the Brighton and Sussex Clinical Trials Unit when appropriate.
   3.5  Ensure Data Management standards are applied and Quality Control data.
   3.6  Manage activities within the existing project and milestones.
3.7 Deal with research/project communications using a range of media to disseminate complex specialist information orally, in writing and electronically to collaborators in a wide range of organisations e.g. consultant oncologists, statisticians, interviewers, research nurses, administrators.

3.8 Identify research proposals in line with unit strategy in prevention, communication, supportive/palliative care interventions and education.

3.9 Identify potential sources of funding and prepare funding proposals and applications to external bodies to secure research funding e.g. applications for multiple years funding in excess of £100k.

4 Teaching & Student Support

4.1 Contribute to teaching and learning in the School, including delivery of teaching if required.

4.2 Supervise postgraduate research students, for example as part of a postgraduate supervisory team.

4.3 Assist in the development of student research skills.

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 the level of responsibility entailed.

Indicative Performance Criteria

Regular published output of original research at international level (referred journal papers, monographs, book chapters, text-books).

Other evidence of original research contribution to the field, such as through invited conference contributions, membership of editorial panels etc.

Evidence of the successful supervision of others within the research group.

Evidence of contribution to the process of obtaining competitive/peer reviewed research support funding or collaboration in significant research projects with institutions of equivalent standing.

Involvement in the creation, transfer and use of the results of research through a range of knowledge exchange activities.

Success in transferring research results to commercial, professional, public sector or other practical use.

Evidence of successful engagement in teaching or supervision.
**Person specification**

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<th>Skills and abilities</th>
<th>Essential</th>
<th>Desirable</th>
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<tr>
<td>1 Evidence of significant independent contribution to the design and execution of research.</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>2 Evidence of applied statistical skills</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>3 An emerging track record of publications in reputable journals and other appropriate media of similar standing.</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>4 Excellent presentation skills, with the ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, with students, colleagues and external audiences.</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>5 Ability to work individually on own initiative and without close supervision, and as part of a team.</td>
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<td>6 Ability to exercise a degree of innovation and creative problem-solving</td>
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<td>7 Excellent organisational and administrative skills.</td>
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<td>8 Ability to prioritise and meet deadlines.</td>
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<td>9 Excellent IT skills.</td>
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**Knowledge**

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<th>Knowledge</th>
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<td>10 Knowledge of health psychology.</td>
<td>X</td>
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**Experience**

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<th>Experience</th>
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<th>Desirable</th>
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<td>1 Experience of managing large data sets, advanced statistical knowledge.</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>2 Experience of measuring Quality of Life/Patient Reported Outcomes in an oncology setting</td>
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<td>3 Experience of generating research or knowledge exchange income.</td>
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**Qualifications**

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<td>Educated to doctoral level, or other equivalent qualification, or appropriate level of experience, as appropriate to the discipline (see role-specific criteria below).</td>
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Senior leadership
and management

The Vice-Chancellor (Professor Michael Farthing) 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 138 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 (2009 – 14) placed growth in research capacity as the number one priority. We have made significant investments in research infrastructure, including a world-class Clinical Imaging Sciences Centre (CISC) housing a 1.5T MRI 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 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 Infectious Diseases
- Neuroscience
- Primary Care and Public Health
- Medical Education
**Administration.** The Medical School’s Administration is led by Mr Peter Pimblett-Dennis 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.

**Brighton & Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust**

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 June 2016 (EA-S)