UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Principal Statistician, Faculty of Medicine and Health

Salary: Grade 8 (£39,992 - £47,722 per annum)

Reference: MHCTR1113

Full time open ended

Principal Statistician
School of Medicine
Leeds Institute of Clinical Trial Research

Do you have statistical experience in a medical environment and want to work for an Institute leading in clinical trials research and impacting clinical practice? Do you want to be part of a successful, highly talented, and multi-disciplinary team with international reach? Are you an enthusiastic, driven postgraduate with a major statistical qualification? Do you have considerable experience in early phase clinical trials?

The Clinical Trials Research Unit (CTRU) is an international leader in the field of clinical trials. The Unit is one of the largest in the UK and conducts national and international randomised and early phase clinical trials in a variety of clinical fields. Our main aim is to support the challenge of changing clinical practice for the better and our past results and current work have already helped to do this. Our results inform the development of this specialised field of clinical research on a national and international level. Particularly, we specialise in complex phase III trials, efficient phase I/II trials, biomarker driven designs, seamless phase II/III designs, adaptive designs and the development and evaluation of complex interventions.

You will join a large, well-established group of statisticians to support the Unit's work on clinical trials and be responsible for leading a growing portfolio of early phase clinical trials in cancer. You will work on internationally renowned trials designed to answer questions of real importance to enable further development of the clinical pathway, ultimately improving disease outcomes and patient care. Working with national leading clinicians you will develop phase I and II trials design to address disease-specific national research priorities, driving strategically aligned research with multiple stakeholders including clinicians, patients, the NHS, industry and charities. You will have opportunities to research, apply and develop statistical methodology, together with general consulting and training of health professionals. You will be involved in a wide range of statistical activities, including designing, conducting, analysing and publicising clinical trials, preparing grant applications and presenting at national and international conferences.



As Principal Statistician, you will provide the statistical strategic lead and supervision during the design and implementation for a number of phase I and II trials within the CTRU Early Phase Cancer Division. You will be a talented and dynamic individual with a postgraduate qualification, including a major statistical component, and an interest in the development and evaluation of cancer treatments within early phase trials. You will have the opportunity to drive implementation of novel early phase trial designs within an active portfolio of cancer trials. You will work closely, interactively and collaboratively with a multidisciplinary project team, including statisticians, programmers, clinicians, health economists, health service researchers and trial managers. As such you will need excellent communication and interpersonal and time management skills. You will have considerable experience in early phase clinical trials, project management and people management skills, together with a nationally recognised research profile in clinical trials and medical statistics.

This role will provide you with an excellent opportunity to develop your career and national and international profile, enabling you to further broaden your expertise through methodological research within a supportive and stimulating environment with leadership opportunities; if applicable, you will also have the opportunity to register for a PhD.

What does the role entail?

As Principal Statistician, your main duties will include:

- Evaluating drug pipelines and levels of evidence to design efficient phase I and II clinical trials in close collaboration with leading clinicians, scientists and trials methodologists;
- Working in partnership with senior CTRU colleagues in the development of grant applications, taking the statistical lead in obtaining research grants for the Portfolio clinical trials and programme grants to be conducted through the CTRU;
- Contributing to the development of strategic statistical objectives and having a leading role in the portfolio development and application of novel statistical methodologies to drive innovation and efficiency;
- Ensuring that the statistical team for the portfolio evolves by keeping abreast of developments which impact upon the work of the Unit through membership of relevant societies, and through journals, conferences and courses;



- Acting as CTRU Principal Investigator for specific projects and lead multi-disciplinary teams consisting of trial management staff, data entry clerks, statistics and programming. Manage issues across organisational boundaries e.g. NHS, industry, funding bodies and various universities;
- Promoting the academic profile of the CTRU through high quality publications in peer-reviewed clinical and methodological journals and by presenting research at national and international conferences;
- Presenting at relevant international/national and regional conferences with regard to the ongoing work of the CTRU;
- Providing statistical supervision of all statistics functions for trials within the portfolio;
- Developing and implementing well planned clinical trials, at a senior level, by providing a comprehensive statistical service for CTRU research studies;
- Managing statisticians in your group, planning workload, including the training and development of design, analysis and presentation of trial projects;
- Providing clinical trial and statistical consultancy to healthcare professionals as well as advisory sessions for NHS staff linking in with the Research Design Service;
- Undertake methodological research under supervision, as and when appropriate, and introduce such methodology, if appropriate, into the CTRU by providing training to relevant staff;
- Contributing to the design and delivery of internal and external training courses (undergraduate/postgraduate/CPD), together with other members of CTRU;
- Deputising for the Divisional Director and other Principal Statisticians when required.

These duties provide a framework for the role and should not be regarded as a definitive list. Other reasonable duties may be required consistent with the grade of the post.

What will you bring to the role?

As Principal Statistician you will have:

- BSc with major statistical component together with a postgraduate qualification in Statistics (MSc/PhD);
- Previous early phase clinical trials experience;



- Knowledge of the drug development process and the regulatory framework surrounding this and the clinical trial processes;
- Knowledge of current statistical issues in early phase clinical trials;
- Experience working independently to analyse medical statistical data;
- Independent medical statistics consultancy experience;
- Proven ability to be an effective, proactive team member with a positive, problem solving attitude;
- Demonstrable experience managing a project and leading others to achieve success;
- Ability to use own initiative;
- Experience of interaction with multiple stakeholders including funding bodies and industry;
- Effective and professional interpersonal and communication skills, including written and presentational;
- Ability to grasp new concepts quickly;
- Ability and willingness to keep abreast of /assess/use new statistical techniques;
- Ability to be flexible regarding meeting deadlines and prioritisation of tasks;
- Extensive experience in the use of a statistical computing package and other IT software such as MS Office;
- Evidence of Research activity (as evidenced by grant applications/publications).

You may also have:

- Knowledge of SAS computing package
- Evidence of previous project management experience
- Experience of research in fields relevant to cancer
- Experience of national committees such as NCRI disease subgroups, NIHR committees or funding body review panels

How to apply

You can apply for this role online; more guidance can be found on our How to Apply information. Applications should be submitted by 23.59 (UK time) on the advertised closing date.



Your application should include:

- a **supporting statement** evidencing how you believe your existing knowledge and experience equips you to carry out the role, as per the criteria outlined above;
- a copy of your **curriculum vitae** giving full details of qualifications and experience;

Contact information

To explore the post further or for any queries you may have, please contact:

Dr Sarah Brown, Associate Professor in Statistics
Tel: +44 113 343 1472
Email: S.Brown@leeds.ac.uk

Additional information

Working at Leeds
You can find out more about our generous benefits package and more about what it is like to work at the University and live in the Leeds area in our Working at Leeds information.

Criminal record information

Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974
A criminal record check is not required for this position, however, all applicants will be required to declare if they have any 'unspent' criminal offences, including those pending.

Any offer of appointment will be accordance with our Criminal Records policy. You can find out more about required checks and declarations in our Criminal Records information.