



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

NIHR Research Methods Fellow in Medical Statistics
Faculty of Medicine and Health



Salary: Grade 5 (£22,214 - £25,728 p.a.)

Grade 6 (£26,495 - £31,604 p.a.)

Reference: MHCTR1115

Closing date: 24 June 2018

Fixed term funding for 24 months from October 2018

NIHR Research Methods Fellow in Medical Statistics School of Medicine, Clinical Trials Research Unit

Do you want to start a career in health research and work for an Institute which is leading in clinical trials research that impacts clinical practice? Do you want to undergo two years of research training and gain experience of applying statistical methods relevant to clinical trials research in the NHS? Are you a highly numerate enthusiastic, graduate with a major statistical qualification?

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 on a national and international level. Particularly, we specialise in complex and adaptive confirmatory trials, efficient phase I/II trials, biomarker driven designs and the development and evaluation of complex interventions.

You will join a large, well-established and supportive team of over 35 statisticians and methodologists, and be mentored by the Institute Director, Prof Julia Brown and Principal Statistician, Dena Howard. Working in a multidisciplinary team, you will have excellent interpersonal, communication and time management skills. You will be involved in a wide range of statistical research activities, as well as assisting trial statisticians in clinical trial and general consulting activities.

You will be a highly talented and enthusiastic individual who is keen to pursue a career in medical statistics. You will have, or expect, an excellent honours degree (1st class), with a substantial mathematical or statistical component. Candidates that do not already have an MSc with a substantial statistical component will be supported, in the first year, through a full-time MSc in Medical Statistics. Candidates that already have obtained an MSc will undertake selected modules from local MSc programmes, whilst being introduced to, and immersed in, the ongoing programme of work at the CTRU.



In the second year, you will be supervised to undertake a methodological research project on analysis methods in adaptive trial designs. You will be encouraged and supported to apply for an NIHR doctoral training fellowship to extend this research. Alternatively, there may be opportunities for progression as a medical statistician within the CTRU.

What does the role entail?

The Methodological Research Project, supported by the NIHR, involves reviewing and building on existing research into analysis methods in adaptive designs, specifically when an ongoing trial is adapted to include new treatment arm, in order to ensure control of the type I error whilst investigating the effect on the power to answer the research questions.

At Grade 5 your main duties will include:

- Undertaking literature reviews of applied and theoretical literature under the direction of the PS, understanding the relevant statistical methods;
- Locating illustrative examples from within the CTRU;
- Contributing to the development of a research protocol with specific aims and methods;
- With guidance carry out simulations, applying them to real examples;
- Developing report writing skills to contribute to the writing up of the research into a paper for a peer-reviewed journal;
- Attending key scientific meetings, taking notes to feedback to the rest of the team with an aim to contribute to the presentations of the research;
- Assisting in the induction, training, supervision and time-management of an NIHR Research Methods Intern;
- Participating in research projects conducted by the CTRU, including assisting in: design and set up; trial conduct and statistical monitoring; analysis and programming; presentation of results to oversight committees, research groups and at national and international conferences; and preparation of manuscripts to peer reviewed journals;
- Shadowing and assist with statistical advisory sessions for NHS staff under the Research Design Service (as appropriate);
- Maintaining an up to date Continuing Professional Development file and identify training needs and opportunities.



At Grade 6 your main duties will include:

- Working closely with other members of the Institute and will be responsible for aspects of the day-to-day running of the methodological research project, including;
- Undertaking literature reviews of applied and theoretical literature, understanding the relevant statistical methods;
- Locating illustrative examples from within the CTRU and externally;
- Developing a research protocol with specific aims and methods;
- Carrying out simulations, applying them to real examples;
- Drafting a paper for a peer-reviewed journal based on the research;
- Presenting the research at scientific meetings;
- Explaining the research to a non-statistical audience;
- Assisting in the induction, training, supervision and time-management of an NIHR Research Methods Intern;
- Participating in research projects conducted by the CTRU, including assisting in: design and set up; trial conduct and statistical monitoring; preparation of analysis plans; analysis and programming; presentation of results to oversight committees, research groups and at national and international conferences; and preparation of manuscripts to peer reviewed journals;
- Providing advice on both statistical and general aspects of research to members of the trial co-ordination, programming and clinical teams when required;
- Assisting in representing the CTRU at research and steering groups and within project team groups;
- Shadowing and assisting with statistical advisory sessions for NHS staff under the Research Design Service (as appropriate);
- Maintaining an up to date Continuing Professional Development file and identify training needs and opportunities.

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 a Grade 5 Research Methods Fellow you will have:

- BSc (held or expected 1st class (hons)) with a major mathematical and/or statistical component
- A willingness and eligibility to study for a full-time MSc in Medical Statistics
- An understanding of applying mathematical ideas to real world problems
- Previous experience of undertaking basic literature reviews
- Effective interpersonal and communication skills, including written and presentational
- Strong initiative, with the ability and willingness to keep abreast of new statistical techniques
- Demonstrable evidence of being an effective team worker
- Ability to be flexible regarding meeting deadlines and prioritisation of tasks
- Proficiency in the use of MS Office

You may also have:

- Programming experience, in particular of a statistical computing package
- Clinical trials knowledge
- Experience working with people at a variety of levels
- Previous experience supervising others

In addition to the above, as a Grade 6 Research Methods Fellow you will also have:

- MSc or PhD with a major statistical component
- Demonstrable ability to present findings to a varied audience
- Experience of scientific report writing
- Willingness to undertake selected modules from MSc programmes, as appropriate
- Demonstrable knowledge of a statistical computing package



You may also have:

- Effective project management skills
- Knowledge of SAS computing package

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** (GMT) on 24 June 2018.

Contact information

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

Dena Howard, Principal Statistician

Tel: +44 (0)113 343 1477

Email: D.R.Cohen@leeds.ac.uk

Or

Julia Brown, Professor of Clinical Trials Research, Director of Leeds Institute of Clinical Trials Research, Associate Dean for Applied Health Research

Tel: +44 (0)113 343 1477

Email: J.M.B.Brown@leeds.ac.uk

Additional information

Find out more about the [Clinical Trials Research Unit](#).

Find out more about the [Faculty of Medicine and Health](#).

Find out more about [Athena Swan](#) in the Faculty of Medicine and Health.



Working at Leeds

Find out more about the benefits of working at the University and what it is like to live and work in the Leeds area on our [Working at Leeds](#) information page.

Candidates with disabilities

Information for candidates with disabilities, impairments or health conditions, including requesting alternative formats, can be found on our [Accessibility](#) information page or by getting in touch with us at disclosure@leeds.ac.uk.

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 in accordance with our [Criminal Records policy](#). You can find out more about required checks and declarations in our [Criminal Records](#) information.

