



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

## CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Assistant in Applied Health Research, Faculty of  
Medicine and Health



**Salary: Grade 6 (£27,025– £32,236 p.a.) (on a pro-rata basis, this post is 40% FTE)**

**Reference: MHHEA1137**

**Closing date: 24 June 2019**

**Fixed-term until 30 April 2021**

**We are happy to consider job share applications and are committed to flexible working for all our employees**

# Research Assistant in Applied Health Research

## School of Healthcare

### Faculty of Medicine and Health

**Are you an ambitious researcher looking for your next challenge? Do you have a background in applied health research? Do you want to further your career in one of the UK's leading research intensive Universities?**

An opportunity has arisen for an enthusiastic Research Assistant to work in the School of Healthcare on an exciting health services realist evidence synthesis funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Health Services & Delivery Research programme.

There is a need in the UK to improve experiences of mental health crisis care and to design services and interventions that are effective, timely, and accessible to all those in need. It is therefore vital to develop mental health crisis interventions from a theoretical understanding of the mechanisms that produce the desired outcomes and in which contexts these work best.

The realist evidence synthesis (MH-CREST) aims to identify mechanisms to explain how, for whom and in what circumstances community mental health crisis services work to resolve crises. The realist approach is a participative method of synthesis that involves an iterative process of testing emergent programme theories against empirical evidence, data from policy documents and primary data from engagement with a mixed group of expert stakeholders. The project design will involve an iterative cycle of programme theory identification, evidence searches, quality appraisal, theory testing, and stakeholder engagement. The study team and stakeholder group are multi-disciplinary and include people with lived experience of mental health crises.

### What does the role entail?

As a Research Assistant your main duties will include:

- Engaging and working with members of the expert stakeholder group;
- Assisting with identification of programme theory, search strategy, appraisal, data extraction and theory testing;
- Providing regular feedback to the research team regarding the progress of the evidence synthesis;



- Contributing to the organisation and facilitation of meetings and events;
- Contributing to in-project dissemination and communication through blogs, webpages and social media;
- Contributing to the write-up and dissemination of the project findings;
- Working both independently and as part of a larger team of researchers;
- Maintaining your own continuing professional development;
- Contributing to the research culture of the School, where appropriate.

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 Research Assistant you will have:

- A Masters Degree, a PhD (or close to completion) or equivalent research experience;
- Experience of evidence synthesis;
- An ability to organise and support research-related events;
- Good time management and planning skills, with the ability to meet tight deadlines and work effectively under pressure;
- The ability to communicate and engage effectively with a range of stakeholders including people with lived experience of mental health problems;
- Sensitive and effective interpersonal skills;
- The ability to write clearly;
- A proven ability to work well both individually and as part of a multidisciplinary team;
- A pro-active approach and a 'can do' attitude;
- A strong commitment to your own continuing professional development;
- Willingness to travel to meetings and events when necessary.



You may also have:

- Familiarity with realist methods (realist evaluation or synthesis);
- Experience as a Research Assistant in a discipline related to health research;
- Experience of engaging with healthcare professionals and people with lived experience;
- A proven ability to publish in peer-reviewed journals;
- Experience of contributing to mental health research.

## 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.

Interviews are anticipated to take place week commencing **8<sup>th</sup> July 2019**.

## Contact information

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

Dr Nicola Clibbens  
Tel: +44 (0)113 343 1221  
Email: [n.clibbens@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:n.clibbens@leeds.ac.uk)

## Additional information

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

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

Find out more about our [School of Healthcare](#).

Find out more about our [Research](#).



You will report to Dr Nicola Clibbens, Lecturer in Mental Health.

### **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.

### **Candidates with disabilities**

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

### **Security checks**

Appointment to this post will be subject to appropriate security checks being carried out with your permission by a third party company.

## **Criminal record information**

### **Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order 1975**

This post requires a standard criminal record check from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS), and any equivalent overseas authorities where relevant. The successful candidate will be required to give consent for the University to check their criminal record status. All applicants are required to make a self-declaration where applicable.

Any offer of appointment will be: subject to the University being satisfied with the outcome of these checks, in accordance with our Criminal Records policy. You can find out more about required checks and declarations in our [Criminal Records information](#).

