UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Principal Statistician, Faculty of Medicine and Health

Salary: Grade 8 (£40,792 - £48,677 per annum)

Reference: MHCTR1162

Closing date: 19 August 2019

Open ended fixed funding for 36 months

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 complex intervention clinical trials in cancer or palliative care?

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 developing and leading a growing portfolio of early phase trials research evaluating novel therapies 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.

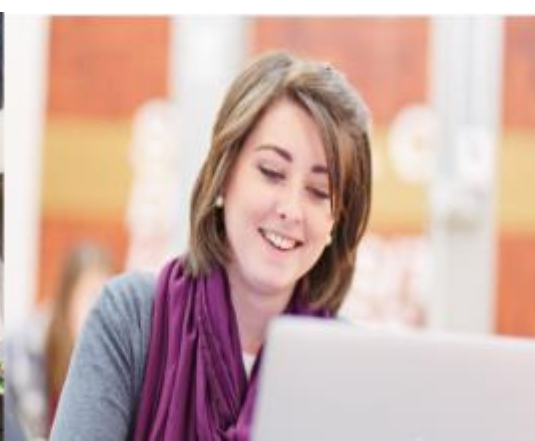
This role will provide you with an excellent opportunity to develop your career and national and international profile, enabling you to further broaden your expertise through methodological research within a supportive and stimulating environment with leadership opportunities; if applicable, you will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

What does the role entail?

As Principal Statistician, your main duties will include:

- Leading the design and implementation of well-planned clinical trials, at a senior level, ensuring comprehensive statistical input and adherence to relevant legislation and CTRU Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs);
- 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, and in close collaboration with leading clinicians, scientists and other trials methodologists, in the development and costing of grant applications, taking the statistical lead in obtaining research grants for the Portfolio clinical trials, programme grants and related studies to be conducted through the CTRU;





- Acting as CTRU Scientific Lead or Principal Investigator for specific projects and lead multi-disciplinary teams consisting of trial and data management staff, statisticians and programmers. Manage issues across organisational boundaries e.g. NHS, industry, funding bodies and various universities;
- Providing statistical supervision of all statistics functions for trials and studies within the portfolio;
- Managing statisticians in your group, including planning induction, workload and ongoing staff training / professional development, relating to design, analysis and presentation of trial projects;
- 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;
- Promoting the academic profile of the CTRU through high quality publications in peer-reviewed clinical and methodological journals and by presenting research to national statistical groups and at national and international conferences;
- Providing clinical trial and statistical consultancy to healthcare professionals, as well as advisory sessions for NHS staff linking in with the Research Design Service;
- Leading the design and delivery of external specialist training & workshops relevant to the early phase division and contributing to the design and delivery of other undergraduate/postgraduate/CPD courses, together with other members of CTRU; and
- Undertake collaborative methodological research, as and when appropriate, ensuring appropriate funding, and introduce such methodology, if appropriate, into the CTRU by providing training to relevant staff;
- 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?

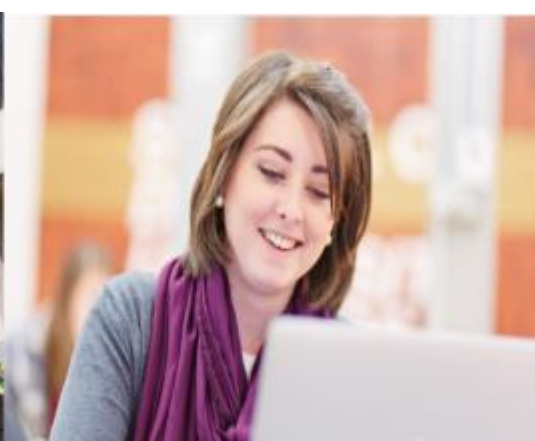
As Principal Statistician you will have:

- BSc with major statistical component together with a postgraduate qualification in Statistics (MSc/PhD);
- Significant early phase clinical trials experience;
- Comprehensive knowledge of current statistical and methodological issues in the design and analysis of early phase trials;
- Experience working independently to analyse statistical data;
- Independent medical statistics consultancy experience;
- Ability and willingness to keep abreast of /assess/use new statistical techniques;
- Nationally recognised research profile in clinical trials e.g. through membership of national research committees, publications and grant income;
- Experience of interaction with multiple stakeholders, funding bodies and industry;
- Demonstrable experience of managing projects and leading others to achieve success;
- Previous experience of staff management, with ability to build and maintain relationships with staff at all levels
- Proven ability to be an effective, proactive team member with a positive, problem solving attitude
- Effective organisational skills, ability to prioritise and to work on own initiative
- Effective and professional interpersonal and communication skills, including written and presentational;
- Ability to grasp new concepts quickly;
- 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.

You may also have:

- Knowledge of SAS computing package;
- Experience of research in fields relevant to cancer;
- Experience of national committees such as NCRI disease subgroups, NIHR committees or funding body review panels; and
- Research funding as a principal investigator





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 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, Principal Statistician
Tel: +44 113 343 1472
Email: S.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
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.



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.