



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Physiotherapist / Occupational Therapist,
Faculty of Biological Sciences



Salary: Grade 6 (£27,025 – £32,236 p.a. pro rata)

Reference: FBSBM1129

Closing Date: 28 August 2019

60% fte

Fixed-term for 20 months (starting September 2019, or ASAP)

Research Physiotherapist / Occupational Therapist School of Biomedical Sciences

Are you an ambitious researcher looking for your next challenge? Do you have an established background in arm and hand rehabilitation? Do you want to further your career in one of the UK's leading research intensive Universities?

This International Spinal Research Trust funded position, is available for a fixed term of 20 months, to investigate how transcutaneous electrical stimulation of the spinal cord, can be combined with conventional therapy, to help recover arm and hand function, following an injury to the cervical region of the spinal cord. You will work alongside a team of experts in motor control and academic clinicians, supervised by [Dr Sarah Astill](#) and [Dr Ronaldo Ichiyama](#). This truly innovative project will be the first in the UK, to examine the efficacy of using transcutaneous electrical stimulation for patients with a chronic cervical spinal cord injury.

We are looking for highly motivated individuals with a strong interest in neurorehabilitation and recovery of hand and arm function, and if possible in cervical spinal cord injury. You should have a qualification as a relevant allied health professional, which is recognised by the Health Care Professions Council, and some experience in assessing arm and hand function and designing and delivering rehabilitation paradigms designed to improve such. Experience in working with people with cervical spinal cord injury, establishing patient public involvement groups and obtaining NHS ethical approval are also welcome.

The University of Leeds and the Faculty of Biological Sciences are committed to providing equal opportunities for all and offer a range of family friendly policies. The University is a charter member of Athena SWAN (the national body that promotes gender equality in higher education), and the Faculty of Biological Sciences was reawarded a Bronze award in 2017. We are proud to be an inclusive Faculty that values all staff, and are happy to consider job share applications and requests for flexible working arrangements from our employees. Our Athena SWAN [webpage](#) provides more information.



What does the role entail?

As a Research Physiotherapist / Occupational Therapist your main duties will include:

- Designing, providing and managing arm and hand therapy interventions with chronic cervical spinal cord injury patients recruited to an ISRT funded research project in consultation the research team led [Dr Sarah Astill](#) and [Dr Ronaldo Ichiyama](#);
- Assessment of patients to gather functional and clinical data to patients involved in the research study. This may entail making clinical measurements of upper limb use after tetraplegia (e.g. GRASSP, SCIM);
- Ensure excellent communication with patients and relatives, and within the team, including undertaking a key worker role as required;
- You will be expected to support the development of a Patient and Public Involvement group, leading on coordinating therapist, clinicians, and patients to attend and partake in these meetings;
- You will also be expected to participate in the research group's research and development agenda where possible;
- Making a significant contribution to the dissemination of research results by publication in leading peer-reviewed journals, and by presentation at national and international meetings;
- Working independently and as part of a larger team of researchers, both internally and externally to develop new research links and collaborations and engage in knowledge transfer activities where appropriate;
- Evaluating methods and techniques used and results obtained by other researchers and relating such evaluations to your own research;
- To contribute to, and to encourage, a safe working environment.

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 Research Physiotherapist / Occupational Therapist you will have:

- A Qualification in Physiotherapy or Occupational Therapy recognised by the Health Care Professions Council;
- Registration as an Allied Health Professional on relevant Register;
- Significant relevant post registration experience;
- Experience in arm/hand rehabilitation;
- The ability to work well both independently and as part of a team;
- A Strong initiative and a pro-active approach, with excellent organisational, planning and self-management skills, including the ability to prioritise workloads to meet deadlines/demand and deliver high quality under pressure;
- A strong commitment to your own continuous professional development.

You may also have:

- Assessing and treating patients participating in research;
- Post-graduate degree (e.g. MSc, PhD);
- Experience in applying for NHS ethical approval;
- Clinical research experience;
- Experience in working with people with cervical spinal cord injury.

How to apply

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

Your application should include:

- A supporting statement providing evidence to support each requirement listed on the 'What will you bring to the role' section of the Candidate Brief (no more than two sides of A4, minimum font size 11);
- An academic curriculum vitae, including a list of your publications.



Contact information

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

[Dr Sarah Astill](#), Associate Professor in Motor Control

Tel: +44 (0)113 343 7267

s.l.astill@leeds.ac.uk

Additional information

Find out more about the [Faculty of Biological Sciences](#) and the [School of Biomedical Sciences](#).

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

