



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Assistant in Applied Mental Health

Faculty of Medicine and Health



Salary: Grade 6 (£27,511 – £32,817 p.a.)

Reference: MHHEA1144

Closing date: 28 October 2019

Fixed-term for 24 months (01 January 2020 – 31 December 2021)

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 in the Mental Health Research Group on an exciting and prestigious 2 year Health Technology Assessment study funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Health Services & Delivery Research programme. The study is titled 'The RECO study: Realist Evaluation of service models and systems for CO- existing serious mental health and alcohol/drug conditions' and is led by Professor Elizabeth Hughes as lead investigator.

This is a great opportunity to join an exciting and vibrant research group here at Leeds, as well as being a part of a wider RECO team which comprises of international experts in the field of mental health and co-occurring alcohol/drug conditions with partners including Kings College London Addictions, Bath, Birmingham and Liverpool John Moores University, with Realist experts from Northumbria University, and as such there will be travel and overnight stays required with this role. We have a lived experience researcher as part of the team, as well as a PPI group who will help co-produce every aspect of the study.

The aim of the research is to find out what is most helpful about the current services aimed at people with severe mental health difficulties and alcohol or drug problems. We would also like to find out what it is about effective services that helps people to stay in contact with their workers, get the right help they need in order to achieve their goals. The study will utilise a Realist approach and comprises of a realist synthesis of evidence, a national mapping of service provision and models of care, and a third package which consists of consultation, focus groups and individual interviews with key stakeholders in 6 locations to refine an emerging programme theory.

The outcome of the study is to make recommendations about what works for whom, how and in what contexts, and make recommendations for future commissioned research.



The post will commence in January 2019 for 24 months 1.0 FTE. There will be some travel and overnight stays involved as part of the role.

What does the role entail?

As a Research Assistant your main duties will include:

- Recruiting stakeholders including service users, health and social care and voluntary agency staff to participate in interviews and focus groups
- Assisting with collection and analysis of data;
- Providing regular feedback to the project Steering Group regarding the progress of the work;
- Writing reports, undertaking literature reviews and preparing papers for publication, with guidance as necessary;
- Working both independently and as part of a larger team of researchers and stakeholders;
- Supporting research activities, including contributing to research results and outputs and to the generation of independent and original ideas, ensuring a successful programme of investigation;
- Continually updating your knowledge, understanding and skills in the research field.
- Participating in the research group and presenting research output where appropriate;
- 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 first degree or Masters in applied health research or a relevant discipline, e.g. psychology, sociology;
- The ability to communicate effectively and sensitively with a wide range of stakeholders
- Experience of engaging participants in research within the fields of mental health and/or substance use



- Well-developed analytical skills;
- The ability to write clearly;
- Good time management and planning skills, with the ability to meet tight deadlines and work effectively under pressure;
- The ability to work unsupervised and to use your own initiative;
- A strong commitment to your own continuous professional development;
- Willingness to travel to study sites when necessary.

You may also have:

- Experience of using realist methods, either in a realist evaluation or synthesis;
- Experience of collection and analysis of interview data;
- A proven ability to publish in peer-reviewed journals.

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.

Contact information

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

Professor Elizabeth Hughes, Chair in Mental Health

Tel: +44 (0)113 343 1235

Email: E.C.Hughes@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 Rebekah Shallcross in the School of Healthcare.

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.

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 an enhanced 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](#).

