UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Principal Statistician, Faculty of Medicine and Health

Salary: Grade 8 (£41,526 - £49,553 per annum)

Reference: MHCTR1186

Closing Date: 29 March 2020

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 trials in mental health?

You will join a large, well-established group of statisticians to support the Unit's work on clinical trials and be responsible for leading and expanding a portfolio of trials research evaluating complex interventions addressing poor mental health, and psychological illness alongside long-term physical conditions. You will work on internationally renowned trials designed to answer questions of real importance to patients, healthcare providers and policy makers, ultimately improving disease outcomes and patient care. Working with national leading clinicians and academic researchers you will develop robust complex trials designed to address national and local 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 and other researchers. You will be involved in a wide range of statistical activities, including designing, conducting, analysing and disseminating clinical trials, preparing grant applications and presenting at national and international conferences.

You will provide the statistical strategic lead and supervision during the design, implementation and dissemination of trials and related research within the Mental Health portfolio of the Complex Intervention Division at CTRU. 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 complex interventions. You will have the opportunity to drive implementation of novel trial designs within an active portfolio of trials and to establish methodological work in area(s) of interest.



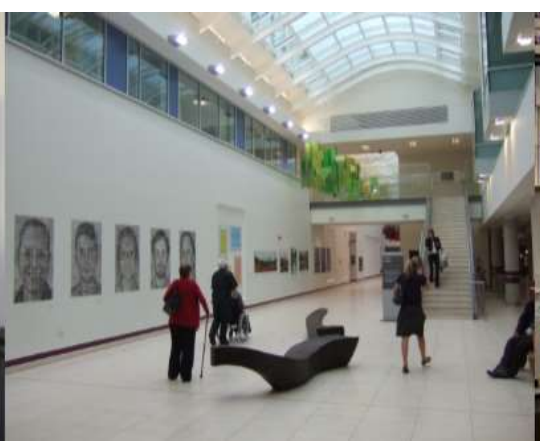
You will work closely and collaboratively with a multidisciplinary project team, including statisticians, data and trial managers, programmers, clinicians, health economists, and health service researchers. As such you will need excellent communication, interpersonal and time management skills. You will have considerable experience in the design and conduct of complex trials, project management and people management skills, together with a nationally recognised research profile in clinical trials and/or 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 within a Portfolio, at a senior level, ensuring comprehensive statistical input and adherence to relevant legislation and CTRU Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs);
- Evaluating relevant scientific research, including feasibility/pilot study evidence, to design efficient phase III trials of complex interventions, in close collaboration with leading clinicians, researchers, patients and trials methodologists;
- Working in partnership with senior CTRU colleagues, and in close collaboration with leading clinicians, researchers and other trials methodologists, in the development and costing of grant applications, taking the statistical lead in obtaining research grants for clinical trials, programme grants and related studies for the Portfolio;
- 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;
- 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 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 and workshops relevant to the Complex Intervention Division and contributing to the design and delivery of other undergraduate/postgraduate/CPD courses, together with other members of CTRU;
- Undertake collaborative methodological research, as and when appropriate, ensuring appropriate funding and leading the introduction of such methodology across 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 complex clinical trials experience;



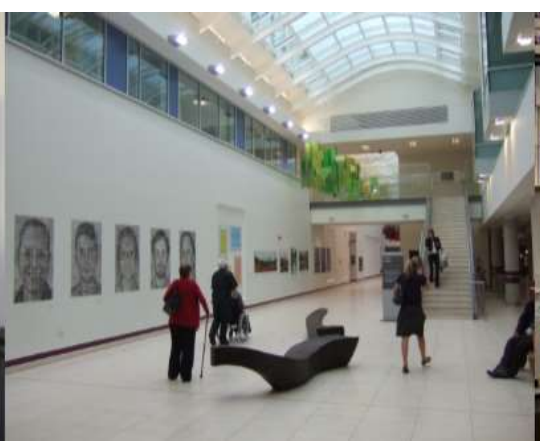
- Comprehensive knowledge of current statistical and methodological issues in complex intervention trials and of the frameworks for complex intervention evaluations, including those for process evaluations, intervention implementation and fidelity monitoring and the corresponding trial processes;
- Considerable statistical experience, encompassing analysis, reporting and consultancy, and the ability to assess and adopt relevant new statistical techniques;
- Nationally recognised research profile in clinical trials e.g. through membership of national research committees, publications and grant income;
- Demonstrable experience of project and staff management; leading others to achieve success; 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, professional interpersonal and communication skills, ability to prioritise and be flexible and to work on own initiative;
- Extensive experience in the use of a statistical computing package and other IT software such as MS Office;
- Self-confident, diplomatic, courteous.

You may also have:

- Knowledge of SAS computing package;
- Experience of complex interventions trials research in fields relevant to mental health and psychological illness;
- Experience of interaction with multiple stakeholders, e.g. funders, charities and patients;
- Experience of national committees, e.g. NIHR committees or funder panels;
- 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 the 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:

Professor Amanda Farrin, Director of the Complex Interventions Division
Tel: +44 113 343 8017; Email: a.j.farrin@leeds.ac.uk

Additional information

Leeds Institute of Clinical Trials Research
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 academic 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.

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 records check

A criminal record check is required for this position. The successful candidate will be required to give consent for the University to check their criminal record status through independent verification. Information will be kept in strict confidence. Your offer of appointment will be subject to the University being satisfied with the outcome of these checks.