

**CANDIDATE BRIEF: Head of Global Health Communications &  
Stakeholder Engagement, National Institute for Health Research**



**Salary: University of Leeds Grade 9 (£51,034 - £59,135 p.a) plus London weighting**

**Reference: MHNCC1226**

**Closing date: 01 May 2020**

**London-based role, fixed term until 31 March 2022**

## Head of Global Health Communications & Stakeholder Engagement, National Institute for Health Research (NIHR)

Are you a highly collaborative communications professional looking for a new challenge? Do you have experience of international development and an appreciation for the difference research can make to people's health and wellbeing? Do you know how to build and manage relationships with individual, institutional and governmental stakeholders in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs)? An exciting opportunity has arisen to raise the profile of NIHR's innovative global health programme, which supports applied health research for the direct and primary benefit of people in LMICs.

### NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH RESEARCH

The NIHR is the nation's largest funder of health and care research. It was established in 2006 to improve the health and wealth of the nation through research, and is funded by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC). In addition to its national role, the NIHR has since 2016 supported applied health research for the direct and primary benefit of people in low- and middle-income countries, using Official Development Assistance (ODA) funding, i.e. UK aid from the UK government.

We have moved at pace during this short period, establishing partnerships with global health leaders including the Wellcome Trust, the Medical Research Council, the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership, the African Academy of Sciences, and the Department for International Development. We have developed and commissioned a range of exciting new research programmes addressing different aspects of global health, and established a number of Global Health Research Professorships.

Through the Global Health Research Programme, the NIHR:

- Invests in applied health research relevant to the unmet needs of LMIC communities, health system priorities and the evolving global burden of disease;
- Trains, develops and connects future leaders in applied global health research and strengthens the research capacity of LMICs at individual, institutional and system level;



- Is committed to establishing equitable partnerships between LMIC and UK researchers and involving LMIC communities in research design and delivery.

The NIHR is a large, multi-faceted and nationally distributed organisation and the vast majority of its people work for or through one of its coordinating centres.

In terms of communications, you will lead a small, cross-centre working group responsible for global health communications, building on their work to date. You will be a member of the NIHR Communications Programme Board (CPB) and work with CPB members on integrating global health research into relevant work-streams (Press Office, social media, website, internal communications, etc.).

In terms of stakeholder engagement, you will establish and lead a network of individuals involved with stakeholder engagement from NIHR coordinating centres, DHSC and potentially global health partner organisations. You will represent both communications and stakeholder engagement on the Cross-NIHR Global Health Research Coordinating Group, chaired by DHSC.

Your organisational base will be the NIHR Clinical Research Network (CRN) Coordinating Centre (which is provided jointly by the University of Leeds and Guy's and St Thomas's NHS Foundation Trust) and your direct report will be to the NIHR Director of Communications. Your employer will be the University of Leeds and you will be based in London. In the first instance, this post is offered on a fixed-term basis to 31 March 2022 to align with NIHR contracts.

Further information on the National Institute for Health Research can be found at: [www.nihr.ac.uk](http://www.nihr.ac.uk). Information on the NIHR's global health programme can be found at: [www.nihr.ac.uk/explore-nihr/funding-programmes/global-health/](http://www.nihr.ac.uk/explore-nihr/funding-programmes/global-health/).

### **What does the role entail?**

The role of Head of Global Health Communications and Stakeholder Engagement is a new role and you will have the opportunity to shape it. Your main duties will include:



### *Communications*

- Develop a strategic communications plan for NIHR's Global Health Research Programme, ensuring that the full breadth of opportunities is communicated and that key milestones are leveraged; evaluate progress periodically and adjust course as needed;
- Review content about the NIHR's global health research programme on the NIHR website and in other communications channels, ensuring that it is engaging, aligned to agreed messaging and branding, and captures NIHR's impact on LMIC policies, health systems, economies and lives;
- Develop and promote global health spokespeople, ensuring that they have the support they need in terms of training, information, messaging and Q&A;
- Build and maintain relationships with communications teams in global health partner organisations, identifying opportunities for collaboration;
- Review and strengthen channel 'mix' for reaching LMIC and UK audiences, to include owned, earned, paid and partner channels;
- Anticipate, prepare for and manage communications issues that may arise, working closely with colleagues in NIHR, DHSC and global health partner organisations.

### *Stakeholder engagement*

- Lead a stakeholder mapping exercise, focusing primarily on LMIC stakeholders including researchers, HEIs and medical research institutes, other funders and national/ multi-national government organisations;
- Develop and manage a phased plan to initiate/strengthen relationships with prioritised stakeholders, to include an account management model with clearly assigned roles and responsibilities;
- Identify events and forums attended by key stakeholders and ensure appropriate NIHR representation;
- Forge/ strengthen relationships with selected stakeholders and identify opportunities for collaboration;
- Develop effective, scalable stakeholder management processes for global health research, working with stakeholder engagement colleagues across NIHR in order to build on existing best practice;



- Lead adoption of processes by providing training and coaching to global health colleagues as 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 NIHR Head of Global Health Communications & Stakeholder Engagement, you will have:

- A background in international development and an understanding of the role of research and of the sensitivities associated with aid funding;
- Experience of building collaborative relationships with stakeholders in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs);
- Experience of developing and embedding stakeholder management processes;
- Experience of developing, delivering and evaluating strategic communications plans, including a good understanding of how best to use digital channels;
- Excellent writing, editing and verbal communications skills, with the ability to make complex information engaging and accessible and good attention to detail;
- Experience of anticipating and managing reputational issues, exercising good judgement under pressure;
- Excellent interpersonal skills and emotional intelligence, with the ability to command the respect of colleagues and stakeholders at all levels and to exercise influence without authority;
- Resilient, tenacious, motivated and deadline-driven, able to work alone or as part of a team, willing to demonstrate flexibility within working patterns to include some travel in the UK and overseas;
- Bachelor's degree level qualification or equivalent experience;
- Proficiency in Google and Microsoft Office applications and familiarity with Customer Relationship Management tools.



You may also have:

- Experience of working in health, social care and/ or research;
- A network of relevant contacts in LMICs and/or the UK;
- Experience of working in a large, complex and distributed organisation;
- Experience of working with or for a government department;
- A relevant professional qualification and/or membership of a relevant professional body.

### 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.

### Contact information

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

**Frances Beves, NIHR Director of Communications**

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Email: [frances.beves@nihr.ac.uk](mailto:frances.beves@nihr.ac.uk)



## **Additional information**

### **Working for the University of Leeds**

Find out more about the benefits of working for the University of Leeds 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](mailto:disclosure@leeds.ac.uk).

### **Criminal record information**

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.

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

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