



**UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS**

## **CANDIDATE BRIEF**

**Research Fellow in Digital Health, Faculty of Medicine and Health**



**Salary: Grade 7 (£33,797 – £40,322 p.a.)**

**Reference: MHLRM1144**

**Fixed term for 4 years**

**Closing Date: 7<sup>th</sup> March 2021. Interviews are expected to be held on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2021.**

**We are happy to consider job share applications and are committed to flexible working for all our employees**



## **Research Fellow in Digital Health**

### **Leeds Institute of Rheumatic & Musculoskeletal Medicine and 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, ambitious Research Fellow to work on an exciting research programme funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR), led by Professor Philip Conaghan. The post will be situated jointly in the Leeds Institute of Rheumatic & Musculoskeletal Medicine (LIRMM) and the School of Healthcare (SoH), both within the Faculty of Medicine and Health.

This mixed methods study will develop and subsequently evaluate (in conjunction with the Leeds Institute of Clinical Trials Research) a digital rehabilitation package of care for distal upper limb pain. The Research Fellow in Digital Health will work closely with a Research Associate in the planning, coordination and completion of all stages of the intervention development, and will conduct the mixed-methods evaluation embedded within the randomised controlled trial. Specifically, a literature review, Delphi study and qualitative interviews will first be used to define the components of the intervention. Subsequently, Experience Based Co-Design, with single-case design component analysis, will be used to develop and refine the components into a testable intervention. A qualitative and quantitative evaluation of the intervention will be undertaken with patients and healthcare professionals, prior to formal testing, to explore issues of usability, adoption and adherence of the intervention. Finally, a randomised controlled trial, with internal pilot and mixed-methods evaluation will be conducted to examine the clinical and cost-effectiveness of the digital rehabilitation package.

You will have a first degree and PhD in a subject area relating to health services research/applied health research/social science/psychology; or have equivalent research experience. You will also have relevant research experience in an academic or relevant health care setting.



## What does the role entail?

As a Research Fellow you will be:

- Working in support of the NIHR programme and taking a lead role in planning and co-ordinating the project under the direction of the Programme Lead, Professor Philip Conaghan (LIRMM) to ensure its successful completion. At different stages of the programme, you will also work under the direction of Professor Gretl McHugh (SoH), Associate Professor Sarah Kingsbury (LIRMM) and Associate Professor Ian Kellar (School of Psychology);
- Generating and pursuing original research ideas in musculoskeletal conditions and applied health research;
- Developing and managing research objectives and resulting activities for the successful delivery of the programme; establishing procedures to adhere to protocol, ethical and administrative requirements;
- Assisting with the development of study research instruments including questionnaires;
- Undertaking a literature review, designing and conducting a Delphi study and undertaking qualitative interviews with patients and healthcare professionals to define the components of the intervention;
- Using Experience Based Co-Design, with single-case design component analysis, to develop and refine the components into a testable intervention;
- Undertaking a qualitative and quantitative evaluation of the intervention with patients and healthcare professionals;
- Undertaking a mixed-methods evaluation of the intervention as part of the randomised controlled trial;
- Ensuring the timely recruitment of patient and healthcare professional participants to the various stages of the programme and subsequent efficient and effective data management;
- Acting as the key point of contact with the digital design company contracted to build the digital intervention, and contributing to the design and content of the digital resources;
- Utilising social media to promote dissemination, recruit participants and generate interest and impact;
- Working with the team to ensure that the study is meeting its planned milestones, is producing meaningful output and to predict and plan any changes that warrant requests to changes in protocol, funding or time;



- Communicating or presenting research results through publication in leading international journals or other recognised forms of output, independently leading the writing of some outputs;
- Developing research objectives and proposals and contributing to setting the direction of the research programme and team including, where appropriate preparing proposals for funding in collaboration with colleagues;
- Working both independently and also as part of a larger team of researchers, engaging in knowledge-transfer activities where appropriate and feasible;
- Maintaining your own continuing professional development and acting as a mentor to less experienced colleagues as appropriate;
- Contributing to the research culture of the Institute, 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 a Research Fellow you will have:

- A first degree and PhD (or substantial equivalent experience) in a subject area relating to health services research/applied health research/musculoskeletal research;
- Relevant research experience in an academic or relevant health care or community setting and a strong background in Applied Health Research;
- Experience of undertaking research in musculoskeletal or long-term conditions and/or in intervention development;
- Experience in evidence synthesis, quantitative, qualitative (including semi-structured interviews and focus groups) and mixed methods research;
- Ability to use a range of computer software packages to support the programme objectives, including referencing and data analysis software such as EndNote, Rayyan, NVivo, SPSS and Stata;
- Experience of the design of interactive/digital resources;
- Experience of using social media and other similar activities to promote research projects, recruit participants and generate interest and impact;
- Excellent time management, organisation and planning skills, with the ability to meet tight deadlines and work effectively under pressure;





- Excellent written and verbal communication skills (including presentation skills) with the ability to communicate effectively with a wide range of stakeholders;
- A proven ability to work well both individually and in a team;
- A strong commitment to your own continuous professional development;
- The ability, willingness and flexibility to work elsewhere, and to travel if necessary, to meet the demands of the study data collection.

You may also have:

- Experience of patient and public involvement and engagement in research;
- Knowledge of the Behaviour Change Theory taxonomy and process evaluation using social cognition constructs
- A track record of successful, high quality publications in applied health research;
- The ability to lead the planning of health services/applied health research/clinical research in health care;
- A demonstrable ability to work effectively with the NHS in developing, conducting analysing and disseminating research.

## 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.

Before you apply for a secondment you must have agreement from your line manager / organisation that you are able to take up the role on a secondment basis if successful.

## Contact information

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

**Dr Sarah Kingsbury**

Email: [S.R.Kingsbury@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:S.R.Kingsbury@leeds.ac.uk)



*Please note: If you are not a British or Irish citizen, from 1 January 2021 you will require permission to work in the UK. This will normally be in the form of a visa but, if you are an EEA/Swiss citizen and resident in the UK before 31 December 2020, this may be your passport or status under the EU Settlement Scheme*

## **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 [Leeds Institute of Rheumatic & Musculoskeletal Medicine](#)

Find out more about our [Research](#).

You will report to Dr Sarah Kingsbury, Associate Professor and Musculoskeletal Strategic Lead.

### **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](mailto: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.

