



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Assistant in Public Health, Faculty of Biological Sciences



Salary: Grade 6 (£31,396 - £37,099 p.a. pro rata)

Reference: FSBM1212

Available on a part-time (50% fte), fixed-term basis for 12 months (to complete specific time limited work)

This role will be based on the university campus and in the local Leeds community, with scope for it to be undertaken in a hybrid manner. We are also open to discussing flexible working arrangements.

Research Assistant in Public Health School of Biomedical Sciences

Are you an early career researcher looking for your first challenge? Are you interested in improving access to and engagement with maternity care in disadvantaged communities? Do you have a background in public health, healthcare, or an allied discipline? Do you want to further your career in one of the UK's leading research intensive Universities?

Maternity services in Leeds are under immense pressure, with many women in especially disadvantaged areas struggling to access care. This project unlocks the potential of using community libraries as informal, accessible and flexible spaces for the delivery of critical maternity care services. Bringing a range of maternity services together in one setting, closer to women's homes, will change maternity care provision at a local, and potentially, national level. Leeds is the first city in the UK to employ this unique setting to be used for the delivery of healthcare services. The collaboration between the University of Leeds, Leeds Libraries, Leeds NHS, and the Leeds Health and Care Partnership will explore the impact of using this new setting for the delivery of maternity care.

In this role you will support the collection and analyses of data (questionnaires, focus groups, semi- structured interviews) that documents the impact of using Wellbeing Pods in eight Leeds community libraries. While you will be based in the School of Biomedical Sciences, travel across Leeds to visit community libraries will be required to fulfil the role (costs will be reimbursed). You should have a first degree/Masters in Public Health, or a closely allied discipline, with experience in quantitative and/or qualitative data collection and analyses techniques. Previous experience of implementing research studies in the NHS/community would be beneficial. You will work extensively with our collaborators, stakeholders, and the project Principal Investigator (PI) [Dr Camilla Nykjaer](#) and Co-Investigator (CoI) [Professor Linda McGowan](#).

What we offer in return

- 26 days holiday plus approx.16 Bank Holidays/days that the University is closed by custom (including Christmas) – That's 42 days a year!
- Generous pension scheme options plus life assurance



- Health and Wellbeing: Discounted staff membership options at The Edge, our state-of-the-art Campus gym, with a pool, sauna, climbing wall, cycle circuit, and sports halls.
- Personal Development: Access to courses run by our Organisational Development & Professional Learning team.
- Access to on-site childcare, shopping discounts and travel schemes are also available.

And much more!

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 awarded a Silver award in 2020. 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.

Main duties and responsibilities

- Contributing to the 'Wellbeing Pods' project, as directed by [Dr Camilla Nykjaer](#), by collecting quantitative and qualitative data that aims to evaluate the impact of using library settings to deliver maternity care;
- Generating original ideas based on the outcome of analysis, in collaboration with [Dr Camilla Nykjaer](#) and [Professor Linda McGowan](#);
- Assisting with the development of project documents (e.g., Participant Information Sheets) and research ethics applications; recruiting research participants to the study;
- Undertaking research interviews and focus groups with stakeholders (pregnant/postpartum women using the library Wellbeing Pods, library staff, practitioners using the pods to deliver maternity care);
- Working with the project PI/CoI to analyse and interpret qualitative and quantitative data;
- Contributing to the dissemination of research results in leading peer-reviewed journals and through presentation at meetings and conferences, with guidance as necessary;



- Supporting the activities of the research group to ensure a successful programme of investigation, including participation at group meetings and seminars;
- Providing support and advice to other members of the group, and assisting in the supervision of students;
- Working both independently and as part of a larger team of researchers and stakeholders;
- Continually updating your knowledge, understanding and skills in the research field in which you work.

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 Assistant you will have:

- A first degree/Masters in Public Health or a closely allied discipline;
- Experience in quantitative and/or qualitative data collection and analyses techniques;
- Evidence of contributing to papers in internationally recognised, peer-reviewed journals or evidence of publishable research in progress;
- Good interpersonal and communication skills, both written and verbal, and the ability to communicate effectively with a wide range of stakeholders;
- Good time management and planning skills, with the ability to meet tight deadlines;
- A proven ability to work well both independently and as part of a team;
- The ability to work accurately and carefully;
- A strong commitment to your own continuous professional development.

You may also have:

- A PhD (or close to completion) in a subject relevant to Public Health;
- Experience in NHS research ethics applications;
- Experience in implementing research studies in the NHS/community setting and of working effectively with external delivery partners;
- Accepted publications in internationally recognised, peer-reviewed journals.



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:

[Dr Camilla Nykjaer](#), Lecturer in Nutrition, Physical Activity and Public Health

Tel: +44 (0)113 343 9698

Email: c.nykjaer@leeds.ac.uk

Please note: If you are not a British or Irish citizen, 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, this may be your status under the EU Settlement Scheme.

Additional information

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

As an international research-intensive university, we welcome students and staff from all walks of life. We foster an inclusive environment where all can flourish and prosper, and we are proud of our strong commitment to student education. Within the Faculty of Biological Sciences, we are dedicated to diversifying our community and we welcome the unique contributions that individuals can bring, and particularly encourage applications from, but not limited to Black, Asian, those who belong to a minority ethnic community; people who identify as LGBT+; and disabled people. Candidates will always be selected based on merit and ability.

Working at Leeds

We are a campus-based community and regular interaction with campus is an expectation of all roles in line with academic and service needs and the requirements of the role. We are also open to discussing flexible working arrangements. To find out



more about the benefits of working at the University and what it is like to live and work in the Leeds area visit 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.

Salary Requirements of the Skilled Worker Visa Route

Please note that due to Home Office visa requirements, this role may only be suitable for first-time Skilled Worker visa applicants if they are eligible for salary concessions. For more information please visit: www.gov.uk/skilled-worker-visa

For research and academic posts, we will consider eligibility under the Global Talent visa. For more information please visit: <https://www.gov.uk/global-talent>.

Criminal record information

Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order 1975

This post may require 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.

