



CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Assistant in Spinal Cord Injury and Women's Health, Faculty of Biological Sciences



Salary: Grade 6 (£33,951 – £39,906 p.a pro rata; max £36,636 due to funding)

Reference: FBSBM1226

Available on a fixed-term basis for 6 months at a 0.4FTE (to complete specific time limited work)

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

Research Assistant in Spinal Cord Injury and Women's Health

School of Biomedical Sciences

Are you an early career researcher looking for your first challenge? Do you have a background in qualitative research methods and Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement? Do you want to further your career in one of the UK's leading research intensive Universities?

We are seeking a motivated Research Assistant to join an interdisciplinary team exploring how to improve support for women following spinal cord injury. The post will involve working closely with researchers, clinicians, and community partners to co-produce a post-injury support pathway that addresses gender-specific needs in rehabilitation and psychosocial care. The ideal candidate will have experience in qualitative research methods and Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement (PPIE), with a passion for reducing health inequalities and working collaboratively with people with lived experience.

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 has received a prestigious Silver award. 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 Co-producing a Gender-Sensitive Spinal Cord Injury Support Pathway for Women with a Spinal Cord Injury project, as directed by Professor Sarah Astill, by undertaking a scoping review and engaging with women with a lived experience of a SCI;
- Generating original ideas based on the outcome of analysis, in collaboration with Professor Sarah Astill, Drs Hannah Campbell and Camilla Nykjaer
- 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.

Qualifications and skills

Essential

- A first degree/Masters in Health or Sport and Exercise Sciences or a closely allied discipline;
- Experience in undertaking scoping or systematic reviews and qualitative research methods with marginalised communities;
- 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.

Desirable

- A PhD (or close to completion) in Health or Sport and Exercise Sciences or a closely allied discipline.
- Experience in working collaboratively with people with a Spinal Cord Injury.
- 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:

Professor Sarah Astill

Email: s.l.astill@leeds.ac.uk

Additional information

Find out more about the [Faculty of Biological Sciences](#).

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

Find out more about our [Faculty initiatives](#).

At the University of Leeds, we are committed to providing a culture of inclusion, respect and equity of opportunity that attracts, supports, and retains the best students and staff from all backgrounds. Whatever role we recruit for we are always striving to increase



the diversity of our community, which each individual helps enrich and cultivate. We particularly encourage applications from, but not limited to Black, Asian, people 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.

Information for disabled candidates

Information for disabled candidates, impairments or health conditions, including requesting alternative formats, can be found under the 'Accessibility' heading on our [How to Apply](#) information page or by getting in touch by [emailing HR via hr@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:hr@leeds.ac.uk).

Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974

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.

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.

Salary Requirements of the Skilled Worker Visa Route

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.

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 [the Government's Skilled Worker visa page](#).

For research and academic posts, we will consider eligibility under the Global Talent visa. For more information, please visit [the Government's page, Apply for the Global Talent visa](#).

