



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

**Research Assistant in Physiotherapy,
Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences**



Salary: Grade 6 (£33,951 – £39,906 p.a.)

Reporting to: Professor Zhiqiang Zhang

Reference: EPSEE1152

Closing date: Monday 26 January 2026

Fixed term (until 31 March 2027 - to complete specific time limited work)

Location: Leeds main campus

We are open to discussing flexible working arrangements.

Research Assistant in Physiotherapy, School of Electronic and Electrical Engineering.

Are you passionate about advancing physiotherapy through cutting-edge research and evidence-based practice? Do you have experience in clinical trials, data analysis, and working collaboratively within multidisciplinary teams?

Overview of the Role

As a Research Assistant in Physiotherapy, you will join a pioneering project exploring the feasibility and effectiveness of the Rex exoskeleton for stroke rehabilitation. In this role, you will help validate whether Rex can reduce the length of stay during the acute inpatient phase and deliver outpatient rehabilitation to improve long-term walking outcomes for stroke patients—shaping innovative strategies that transform recovery and patient care.

We are looking for a highly motivated individual with a strong interest in rehabilitation and recovery of mobility, and if possible, in neurological conditions. You should have a qualification as a physiotherapist, be registered with the Health Care Professions Council, and have experience in assessing mobility in delivering rehabilitation treatments designed to improve such. Experience in working with people with stroke, establishing patient public involvement groups, and obtaining NHS ethical approval are also welcome.

Main duties and responsibilities

- Assessment of participants to gather functional and clinical data using the Rex rehabilitation system;
- Ensure excellent communication with research participants, and within the team;
- Supporting research activities, including contributing to research results and outputs and to the generation of independent and original ideas, ensuring a successful programme of investigation;
- Writing reports, undertaking literature reviews and preparing papers for publication, with guidance as necessary;



- Collating and analysing data to inform the direction and progression of the research project;
- Participating in the research group and presenting research output where appropriate;
- Working both independently and as part of a larger team of researchers and stakeholders;
- Contributing to the research culture of the school, where appropriate;
- Continually updating your knowledge, understanding and skills in the research field.

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

- An undergraduate or masters degree in physiotherapy or a closely allied discipline;
- A Qualification in Physiotherapy recognised by the Health Care Professions Council;
- Registration as a physiotherapist on the relevant Register;
- Relevant post registration experience in stroke rehabilitation;
- Good interpersonal and communication skills, both written and verbal and the ability to communicate effectively with a wide range of stakeholders;
- Well-developed analytical skills;
- Good time management and planning skills, with the ability to meet tight deadlines;
- A proven ability to work well both individually and in a team;
- The ability to work accurately, unsupervised and to use your own initiative.

Desirable

- A PhD (or close to completion) in physiotherapy or a closely allied discipline;
- Experience of contributing to the writing of papers for publication;
- Experience in working with people with stroke;
- Experience in establishing patient public involvement groups;
- Experience in obtaining NHS ethical approval.



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 Rory O'Connor](#), Charterhouse Professor of Rehabilitation Medicine

Email: R.J.O'Connor@leeds.ac.uk

OR

[Professor Zhiqiang Zhang](#), Professor of Biomedical Engineering

Email: Z.Zhang3@leeds.ac.uk

Additional information

Faculty and School Information

Further information is available on the research and teaching activities of the [Faculty of Engineering](#) and the School of [Electronic and Electrical Engineering](#).

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.

A diverse workforce

As an international research-intensive university, we welcome students and staff from all walks of life and from across the world. 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 Engineering and Physical 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 and ethnically diverse people; people who identify as LGBT+; and people with disabilities. Candidates will always be selected based on merit and ability.

The Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences are proud to have been awarded the Athena SWAN [Silver](#) Award from the Equality Challenge Unit, the national body that promotes equality in the higher education sector. Our [equality and inclusion webpage](#) provides more information.

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.

Criminal Record Information

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 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](#).

