



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Clinical Trials Research Unit, Faculty of Medicine and Health



Salary: Grade 7 (£32,004 – £38,183 p.a.)

Reference: MHCTR1083

Closing date: 20 September 2017

Fixed-term for 2 years

Postdoctoral Research Fellow

Clinical Trials Research Unit, Leeds Institute for Clinical Trials Research

Faculty of Medicine and Health

Are you interested in applying your statistical and/or mathematical training to medicine? Would you like to be involved in a prestigious methodology grant on a clinical trial design to evaluate complex interventions in institutional settings? Would you like to work within a highly successful, 'impressive and inspirational' clinical trials unit, joining a team of over 30 statisticians?

You will work on the MRC Methodology Research Programme funded project: "Open-cohort designs for cluster-randomised trials in institutional settings". This programme of statistical research is bolted on to a cluster-randomised trial (DCM-EPIC) evaluating the effectiveness/cost-effectiveness of a quality improvement intervention, directed at staff in care homes, to enable person-centred care for people with dementia and their carers. It aims to develop novel statistical methods to design and analyse clinical trials and consists of 5 work packages: i) literature review, ii) user engagement, iii) statistical development, iv) statistical evaluation and v) practical guidance.

You will be responsible for performing a literature review, proposing statistical models, comparing methods for handling missing data, exploring methods for incorporating length of stay, developing sample size formulae, a simulation study and contributing to practical guidance and research outputs. Specialist methodological expertise will be provided by the Principal Investigator, Dr Rebecca Walwyn (Leeds), Co-Investigators, Dr Andrew Copas (UCL), Professor Amanda Farrin (Leeds) and Professor Claire Surr (Leeds). There will be an opportunity to undertake further specific training in the post. In addition, you may make a small contribution to the teaching programme, providing specialist advice to medical statisticians in the Clinical Trials Research Unit.

You will have a PhD, or equivalent qualification/experience, in statistics or a related discipline. Additionally, you will have experience of medical statistics and conducting literature reviews and simulation studies.



What does the role entail?

As a Postdoctoral Research Fellow your main duties will include:

- Managing aspects of the project, taking responsibility for day-to-day running of your areas of the project and co-ordinating work with other internal and external collaborators;
- Attending and preparing reports for regular meetings with other members of the project team to report progress, agree future work and exchange ideas;
- Reviewing the statistical and clinical literatures, updating an existing review, and collating examples of open-cohort cluster-randomised trials;
- Proposing statistical models, methods for handling missing data, methods for incorporating the effect of length of stay in addition to time from randomisation, and developing methods for calculating sample size;
- Exploring the conditions in which open-cohort designs are superior to closed-cohort and cross-sectional cluster-randomised designs using simulation;
- Developing guidance on how to design, analyse and report open-cohort cluster randomised trials;
- Preparing written papers for publication in journals with international standing, as lead/support author, and presentations to disseminate the research findings to statistical and clinical communities at national and international level leading to high quality publications in peer-reviewed journals;
- Attending relevant training courses;
- Contributing to formal teaching programmes and, as the post-holder becomes more experienced, providing informal guidance to colleagues in the Institute;
- Working effectively and positively as a team player to help achieve the broader strategic development of the aims and objectives of the Institute;
- Occasional travel to meet with/work with collaborators in London.

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.

You will report to Dr Rebecca Walwyn, Principal Statistician in Complex Interventions Division, CTRU.



What will you bring to the role?

As a Postdoctoral Research Fellow you will have:

- A PhD or equivalent qualification/experience in statistics or a related discipline (e.g. applied mathematics, operational research);
- Experience in medical statistics, including evaluation of clinical trials;
- Experience of conducting literature reviews and simulation studies, multilevel modelling, methods for handling missing data and calculating sample size;
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills including presentation skills and the ability to communicate effectively with a wide range of stakeholders;
- Familiarity with statistical software packages, such as STATA, R or SAS;
- A proven ability to write to the standard required for research reports and/or international publications (e.g. via peer-reviewed publications);
- Experience of working independently and as part of a multidisciplinary team;
- Motivation and be self-disciplined, with good time management and planning skills;
- The ability to show common sense, good judgement and attention to detail;
- The appropriate skills to participate in and develop internal and external networks.

You may also have:

- Relevant work experience in medical statistics;
- Experience of collaborative research or working in a multidisciplinary team;
- Experience of writing papers in the evaluation of complex interventions using cluster-randomised trials;
- Knowledge of the cluster-randomised trial literature, in particular an awareness of the characteristics of the conventional design options;
- Knowledge of the epidemiological literature on open- or dynamic- cohorts;
- The skills to build relationships for future activities, identify funding sources or generate research income; or a national reputation for work in a related area.



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 Rebecca Walwyn, Principal Statistician

Tel: +44 (0)113 343 5485

Email: R.E.A.Walwyn@leeds.ac.uk

Additional information

Find out more about [Leeds Institute of Rheumatic & Musculoskeletal Medicine](#).

Find out more about the [Faculty of Medicine and Health](#).

Find out more about [Athena Swan](#) in the Faculty of Medicine and Health.

Working at Leeds

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



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.

