UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL

Faculty of Health and Life Sciences

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

Area: Health & Life Sciences, Institute of Population Health

Job Ref: 044666

Location: Liverpool Campus

Salary: £35,327 - £40,928 pa

Grade 7

Working Hours: Full Time

Tenure: The post is available from 1 October 2022 until 30 September 2024

Online application> Shortlisting > Interview Process> Job Offer

About the Role

Role overview and University context:

This is an exciting opportunity for a quantitative researcher to make a practical contribution to reducing health inequalities and improving the health of the population of the North West Coast.

The post is based at the University of Liverpool and will work across the NIHR Applied Research Collaboration for the North West Coast (NIHR ARC NWC). The NIHR ARC NWC embraces over 60 Member Organisations- including, 5 Universities, almost all the NHS trusts in the region, 9 Local Authorities, plus many primary care, third sector and charity organisations. Our Public Advisor Forum has ~90 members. Visit our website (https://arc-nwc.nihr.ac.uk/) for a flavour of the exciting co-produced applied research programme focused on reducing health inequalities in health and social care.

You will play a key role in the delivery of multiple applied research and implementation projects providing methodological and analytical support. You will be managed within the Care and Health Informatics cross-cutting theme (based in the University of Liverpool but working across the NIHR ARC NWC) reporting to the Theme Lead Professor Sarah Rodgers.

The Care and Health Informatics team is a unique cross-cutting theme within the NIHR ARC NWC that aims to bring people and data together, creating an infrastructure tailored to meet the needs of modern data usage and working on applied public health evaluations. We achieve this by working closely with the other themes in the NIHR ARC NWC on applied projects, while at the same time helping to develop broader infrastructure which will make future applied projects easier and more impactful.

In this role you will take responsibility for working directly with the wider NIHR ARC NWC team, NIHR ARC NWC partners and members of the public/service users/carers to identify appropriate areas for research. Then you will co-design data driven projects and analyse the data to meet their needs. Data science methods for exploiting key data sources might include regression-based approaches, multi-level modelling, and interrupted time series designs. Experience of using all data types and methods is not essential and support will be provided for analysing each type. Having completed the analyses, you will work with other members of the theme to disseminate your findings to a wider audience.

A sample of some of the projects the Care and Health Informatics theme are currently involved in, and which the postholder would likely contribute to, are listed below. These projects were prioritised and co-developed by academics, practitioners, and Public Advisors, and cross a range of topics and approaches.

* GroundsWell – a project which is aiming to drive community innovation and applying systems science that maximises the contribution of Urban Green and Blue Space to the primary prevention of, and reduction of inequalities in, non-communicable diseases (NCD) in urban settings. More details here: https://ukprp.org/what-we-fund/groundswell/

* The anticholinergic medication index project where we are using linked individual level routinely collected data to develop an algorithm to assist clinicians with deprescribing a class of anticholinergic drugs for their frail, elderly patients. https://www.hdruk.ac.uk/projects/better-care-northern-partnership-development-of-a-learning-system-to-optimise-anticholinergic-medication-prescribing-for-older-people-living-with-frailty/

* System P – this takes a whole system approach to addressing multiagency, multisector challenges that negatively impact population health and will deliver transformational change in service provision though collaborative working across Cheshire & Merseyside. Data and analytics are key to its success. Funded by the Cheshire & Merseyside Integrated Care System, its work is initially concentrating on two segments of the population, namely 'complex lives' and 'frailty and dementia'. The Care and Health Informatics team from NIHR ARC NWC are working with System P, by taking part in hackathons and in providing analytical and data support.

* CDC - The Liverpool Civic Data Cooperative works on various projects that operate with data related to citizens helping to build a better region. They follow a transparent, open approach following best practices. The CDC has access to various data, mainly related to healthcare, such as summary patient records or synthetic datasets.

* NDL – The Networked Data Lab is a pioneering collaborative network of analysts who use linked data, open analytics, and public and patient involvement to tackle the most pressing challenges in health and social care. Locally we have worked with Liverpool Clinical Commissioning Group and Healthy Wirral Partnership on projects relating to COVID and extremely vulnerable populations, children and young people's mental health, and social care.

You will be expected to play an active role in identifying research prospects relevant to the interests of NIHR ARC NWC and developing them into grant applications and projects. You will have the chance to make major contributions to the publication of high-quality research papers and disseminating impactful research across the region.

Whilst the post is based in central Liverpool, the successful candidate should expect to attend meetings and events across the North West Coast area, as well as nationally.

You will have a PhD in Applied/Health Services Research, Applied Statistics, or similar, and experience of conducting high quality academic research. as well as project management skills, with a track record of delivering projects on time and within budget.

Duties:

Undertake other duties commensurate with the grade as required.

About You

In addition to the above, all University of Liverpool staff are required to:

- Adhere to all University policies and procedures, completing all obligatory training and induction modules, including Equality & Diversity and Health & Safety.
- Respect confidentiality: all confidential information should be kept in confidence and not released to unauthorised persons.
- Participate in the University's Professional Development Review scheme and take a proactive approach to own professional development.
- Demonstrate customer service excellence in dealing with all stakeholders.
- Embody and uphold the University's Vision and Values.

About You

Essential Criteria	Desirable Criteria
Experience	
Expererience of conducting quantitative research in health or social care settings.	Experience in handling, cleaning and analysing health/medical data.
A track record of delivering research publications and other research outputs.	Experience of giving presentations at conferences and seminars.
	Experience of working closely with the NHS or health and social care organisations and applying academic expertise to help solve practical data driven problems.
	Experience of Analysing large linked or matched datasets
	Experience of working autonomously on new topics.
Education, Qualifications and Training	
PhD (submitted or awarded) in a relevant discipline preferably a Social Science or Public Health subject area allied with data science or quantitative data analysis	
Skills, General and Special Knowledge	
Knowledge of a range of data science, statistical, and quantitative techniques suitable for public health data analysis.	Understanding of how to handle sensitive or secure data; knowledge of data/code sharing practices.
Ability to use programming languages such as R or python.	Understanding of relational databases and ability to write SQL queries.
Excellent written and verbal communication skills including and scientific writing skills.	Knowledge or experience of longitudinal studies.
Problem solving skills.	Knowledge of methods for exploiting natural experiments or interrupted time series designs.
Good communication/presentation skills.	

Personal Attributes and Circumstances

Ability to work well alone and within a team.	
Ability to plan, organise, prioritise, and execute work in an effective manner.	Proven ability to manage multiple competing projects simultaneously.

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Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dame Janet Beer

About Us

Established in 1881, we are an internationally renowned Russel Group university recognised for our high-quality teaching and research. We are consistently ranked as one of the best universities both nationally and globally, and the majority of our research is rated world leading or internationally excellent. Find out more here.

Our Areas

When you work at the University of Liverpool you are more than just your job role. You are a crucial part of our mission to improve lives on a local, national and international scale. Click on the relevant link(s) below for more information on the area you will be working in.

https://arc-nwc.nihr.ac.uk/

https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/population-health/about/primarycareandmentalhealth/

Why Work Here

We recognise, appreciate and celebrate the incredible work our staff do every day. As well as generous terms and conditions, we offer a range of enviable benefits and provide support for colleague's wellbeing and development. Discover more here.

Moving from abroad

As a global institute, we welcome applicants from all nationalities, Moving from a different country can be challenging and we would like to help as much as we can, we have put together some information on eligibility to work documentation, accommodation, schools, healthcare, life in Liverpool and the UK as well as other practical information. Discover more here

Our Staff

Whether it be their friendly colleagues, supportive managers or our outstanding facilities, our staff can explain better than anyone what it is like to work for us and why they enjoy their role. See what they have to say here.

The University of Liverpool is committed to being an inclusive employer. We welcome applications from everyone regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, faith or disability.

Contacting us

Shortlisting and interview arrangements are the responsibility of the recruiting department. Please contact Mark Gabby, email: mbg@liverpool.ac.uk

Application process

Our e-recruitment system enables you to register for an online account, where you can view, copy and edit your applications. Set up your account here.

Once you submit your application you will receive an automatic email acknowledgment. You can view your application at any time by clicking into the application history section of your account.

Job description

After the closing date this job description will be removed from our website. Should you wish to refer to this information at a later date please ensure you save a copy of this document.

Right to work

We have a legal responsibility to ensure that you have the right to work in the UK before you can start working for us. If you do not have the right to work in the UK already, any offer of employment we make to you will be conditional upon you gaining it. The UKVI have an interactive tool allowing you to immediately see if vacancies are eligible for a Skilled Worker visa. You will need to know the SOC code for the role, our most used SOC codes can be found here, if none of these apply to this role, there are more codes on the eligibility checker. The skilled worker eligibility checker can be found on GOV.UK.

How to Apply

Disabilities and alternative formats

If you have any other requirements which will help you access the application or interview process or employment opportunities at the University, or if you require copies documentation in alternative formats, please email: jobs@liverpool.ac.uk or telephone 0151 794 6771.

Outcome of your application

The recruiting department will endeavour to respond to each application. However, if you have not heard within six weeks of the closing date, please take it that your application has not been successful on this occasion.

How to Apply