

Candidate Information

Position:	Senior Research Fellow
School/Department:	School of Medicine, Dentistry and Biomedical Sciences
Reference:	19/107489
Closing Date:	Wednesday 26 June 2019
Salary:	£40,792 - £44,559 per annum
Duration:	2 years and 2 months

JOB PURPOSE:

The post-holder will be a member of a multi-disciplinary research group working on the NICOLA Study which is a large longitudinal study addressing the social and biological determinants of healthy aging in Northern Ireland. The post will involve working predominantly with the NICOLA Operations Group, Scientific Officer and Project Manager, in the delivery and support of a portfolio of research that stem from the NICOLA data resource. The post holder will take the lead in the preparing the report of the second wave survey, and will work with other members of the NICOLA team in preparing the cohort for linkage to other data sets, and assisting in the preparation of future grant applications. The work will fit within the research strategies of Centre for Public Health and there will be opportunity to develop the post holder's research skills and to co-author academic papers.

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Leading the development and facilitation of continued research in NICOLA that fits with the overall delivery intent of the study.
2. To develop Standardised Operating Procedures for the ascertainment of key clinical events during follow-up through record linkage, including in the first instance: major cardiovascular events (coronary heart disease and stroke), cancer and dementia.
3. To assist in continued quality assurance & curation of the NICOLA data collection and preparation for ongoing public archiving.
4. To promote data harmonisation procedures to ensure NICOLA is harmonised where appropriate with other cohort studies.
5. Develop and contribute to research proposals and funding bids in collaboration with others to ensure continued longevity and growth of the study.
6. Proactively provide a conduit between NICOLAs research activities, collaborators and funders strengthening the presence of the NICOLA resource.
7. Engage in research methodologies that bring additional knowledge & benefits to the study increasing its multi-faceted uses.
8. To be responsible for undertaking a range of community engagement and dissemination presenting study findings at a variety of user and policy maker and stakeholder forums.
9. Working strategically with ageing & other relevant networks (local, national and international) as appropriate.
10. Generate scientific manuscripts and reports, including the submissions using Researchfish.
11. Direct, coach and develop research staff, where appropriate.
12. Present regular progress reports for the research team or to external audiences to disseminate and publicise research findings.
13. To prepare, in consultation with the research team, material for publication in national and international journals and presentations at national and international conferences.
14. Participate in & contribute to the stakeholder and operational groups in line with strategic decisions. Liaise with the wider stakeholders and policy makers to create opportunities for both current and further research.
15. Carry out routine administrative tasks associated with the research project including organisation of particular project meetings and documentation, financial control, risk assessment of research activities.
16. Sustain a high quality publication record by publishing in refereed journals with optimal impact, presenting at national and international conferences.
17. Read academic papers, journals and textbooks to keep abreast of developments in longitudinal studies of aging and related disciplines.

Planning and Organising:

1. Plan for specific objectives /deliverables of the research project's scientific outputs.
2. Plan for the use of research resources and workshops where appropriate.
3. Plan own day-to-day activity within framework of the agreed research programme.
4. Plan to meet deadlines for journal publications and to prepare presentations and papers for conferences.
5. Coordinate and liaise with other members of the research group regarding progress.

Resource Management Responsibilities:

1. Mentor colleagues with less experience and advise on personal development.
2. Supervise the work of others, for example in research teams.
3. Assist other research fellows/assistants and support staff, as required, on research projects.
4. Manage own research, teaching and administrative demands under general supervision.
5. Participate in judgements regarding the use of resources within the research programme.
6. To develop, implement and manage effective processes of research governance as the study continues to grow in line with policy and regulatory requirements.
7. Provide input on the assessment, monitoring and response to any research risks.
8. To ensure that processes both currently in place and proposed for future meet all data safe guarding requirements.
9. To maintain accurate records of all key processes for compliance with audit purposes.
10. To provide support and guidance as required to staff and students assisting with the research.

Internal and External Relationships:

1. To liaise on a regular basis with colleagues, students and key stakeholders.
2. Provide research supervision for junior research staff engaged in NICOLA research activities.
3. Participate in and develop external networks, for example to identify sources of funding, generate income, obtain consultancy projects, or build relationships for future activities.
4. Consider and strengthen the impact and public engagement of all research through a wide range of stakeholders.
5. Actively participate in the outreach, communication and dissemination activities of NICOLA.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. Have a PhD in a relevant public health sciences discipline (such as epidemiology, medical statistics, psychology, health economics or in a discipline in a related area of professional practice).
2. First or upper second class honours degree or equivalent related to a public health science such as epidemiology, medical statistics, psychology, and health economics or in a discipline in a related area of professional practice.
3. Substantial experience and skills relevant to this project e.g. experience of data analyses in epidemiological studies with relevance to public health, in analysis of longitudinal studies or in related areas with a focus at a population level.
4. Demonstrated experience of research methods and techniques pertinent to epidemiology, longitudinal studies and public health research using a range of qualitative and/or quantitative methodologies.
5. A strong track record of peer reviewed publications, conference presentation and proven ability to write to the standard required for international publications.
6. Experience of using data analysis packages such as SPSS, STATA or MPlus.
7. Proven ability to work in a multi-disciplinary environment as part of a research team.
8. Experience of undertaking a range of community engagement, outreach and dissemination activities.
9. Experience of securing grants independently.
10. Skills in managing and motivating staff.
11. Clear leadership skills.
12. Excellent IT skills and good knowledge of Microsoft Office packages.
13. Excellent time management and organisational skills with the ability to meet tight deadlines and work effectively under pressure.
14. Evidence of ability to deal competently with administrative tasks and contribute to broader management tasks.
15. Experience, achievement and growing reputation in the discipline.
16. Excellent written and verbal communication skills including presentation skills and the ability to communicate effectively with a wide range of stakeholders.
17. Proven ability to work collaboratively and independently.
18. Ability to act decisively and confidently.
19. Research interests that are sustainable and align with the aims of the NICOLA study.
20. Willingness to travel to meet the needs of the post.
21. Ability to work outside normal hours when necessary.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. MSc in Public Health, Research Methods or equivalent.
2. Knowledge of relevant public health systems and datasets.
3. Experience supervising research projects of undergraduate and post graduate students.
4. Evidence of having co-ordinated a research project to successful completion.
5. Experience of public engagement activities and disseminating research to non-academic audiences.
6. Strong commitment to a career in research.