

## Candidate Information

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|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Position:</b>                   | Research Fellow                                                     |
| <b>School/Department:</b>          | Nursing and Midwifery                                               |
| <b>Reference:</b>                  | 21/108727                                                           |
| <b>Closing Date:</b>               | Monday 19 April 2021                                                |
| <b>Salary:</b>                     | £33,797 per annum                                                   |
| <b>Anticipated Interview Date:</b> | Thursday 29 April 2021                                              |
| <b>Duration:</b>                   | Available for 18 months or until 20 Nov 2022 (whichever is soonest) |

### JOB PURPOSE:

This National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Health Service and Delivery Services (HS&DR) project ultimately aims to optimise the implementation and routinisation of integrated palliative care and heart failure services across all healthcare settings. The study design is a realist review of the evidence. The project more specifically aims to a) develop a programme theory of why, for whom and in what contexts desired outcomes occur; b) use the programme theory to co-produce, with stakeholders (e.g. patient/carers, local, national, international content experts and multidisciplinary practitioners), recommendations to inform implementation of best practice and guide future research.

The role requires a post-doctoral research fellow to work with Dr Tracey McConnell and Professor Joanne Reid at Queen's University Belfast supported by colleagues at the University of Oxford. The role requires the successful candidate to undertake a realist synthesis review with support from other members of the team; searching and extracting data; writing up the synthesis and producing the research outputs including the final report and wider dissemination (e.g. presentations, and journal articles). This is an excellent opportunity for a post-doctoral health services researcher or social scientist with realist synthesis experience, and preferably with a knowledge of palliative care and heart failure models or theories and literature, to work within an experienced national team.

### MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Take a significant role in working with the information specialist to design the literature searching and searching and extracting data; writing up the synthesis and producing the research outputs including the final report.
2. Take a significant role in co-ordinating, implementing, evaluating and disseminating the research project.
3. Understand and follow RAMESES guidelines for reporting.
4. Undertake further training and development on realist synthesis methods as required.
5. Take responsibility for overall project management and close liaison with all members of the wider team at Queen's University Belfast and University of Oxford.
6. Work closely with the wider project team to ensure research rigour and consistency in approaches to data extraction, analysis and synthesis.
7. Be responsible for overseeing the literature searching and data extraction.
8. Contribute to overall data analysis, leading on the realist synthesis.
9. Work with research team colleagues on report-writing/disseminating findings (including oral/conference presentations) and producing resources to disseminate the work widely.
10. Plan and manage their own research activity in collaboration with others.
11. To carry out administrative tasks associated with the project (e.g. organisation of project meetings and producing/circulating associated documentation).
12. To design and implement procedures required to ensure accurate and timely formal reporting against project milestones.
13. Be committed to her/his own personal career development.
14. Carry out any other reasonable duty commensurate with the grade and purpose of the post.
15. Contribute to wider school activity by actively participating in Cardiac Research Group meetings relevant to the work undertaken and the Chronic Illness and Palliative Care research theme.

**Planning and Organising:**

1. Plan for specific aspects of research programmes. Timescales range from 1-6 months in advance and contribute to research group planning.
2. Plan for the use of research resources, laboratories and workshops where appropriate.
3. Plan own day-to day activity within framework of the agreed research programme.
4. Plan up to a year in advance 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 over work progress.

**Resource Management Responsibilities:**

1. Ensure research resources are used in an effective and efficient manner.
2. Provide guidance as required to support staff and any students who may be assisting with research.

**Internal and External Relationships:**

1. Liaise on a regular basis with colleagues and students.
2. Build internal contacts and participate in internal networks for the exchange of information and to form relationships for future collaboration.
3. Join external networks to share information and ideas.
4. Contribute to the School's outreach programme by establishing links with local community groups, industries etc.

**ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:**

1. Undergraduate honours or postgraduate degree in a relevant social science or healthcare discipline.
2. Have, or be about to obtain a PhD in a relevant social science or healthcare discipline such as nursing.
3. At least 3 years relevant research experience.
4. Experience of leading / conducting realist synthesis.
5. Applied knowledge of realist methodology/principles.
6. Proven ability to manage a research project.
7. Evidence of good organisational and administrative skills.
8. Ability to undertake literature reviewing to a high standard and lead on data extraction, analysis/synthesis and write up.
9. Ability to engage in deep critical thinking to develop theoretical insights, and to locate relevant mid-range theories.
10. Ability to communicate with a range of disciplines/professions.
11. Ability to communicate complex information clearly.
12. Ability to build contacts and participate in internal and external networks.
13. Demonstrable intellectual ability.
14. Ability to assess and organise resources.

**DESIRABLE CRITERIA:**

1. Experience of working or research in palliative care and heart failure.
2. Experience of working in a research team (including remotely).
3. Knowledge of relevant palliative care and heart failure literature and theories, and proven interest in the topic.
4. Experience of writing research reports and papers.
5. Excellent record of publication in health service related journals.
6. Demonstrable experience of presenting research at conferences to a wide variety of audiences.
7. Highly self-motivated and hardworking.