

Candidate Information

Position:	Research Assistant (Part-time)
School/Department:	Nursing and Midwifery
Reference:	21/109164
Closing Date:	Monday 20 September 2021
Salary:	£28,331 - £32,817 pro rata per annum
Anticipated Interview Date:	Tuesday 5 October 2021
Duration:	6-month fixed term contract

JOB PURPOSE:

This Marie Curie Policy-themed Small Research Grant Scheme project ultimately aims to explore how loneliness could impact upon on the health, wellbeing and quality of life of people living with terminal illness, their carers and family. The project will also explore ideas and interventions which have the potential to reduce loneliness in this group and improve experience at the end of life. The study design is a mixed methods study with Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) input to the design, analysis and dissemination. The role requires a research assistant to work alongside Dr Tracey McConnell and Professor Joanne Reid, School of Nursing and Midwifery, Queen's University Belfast and supported by colleagues at Marie Curie.

The successful candidate will work with the project team to support a mixed methods study, involving a short survey and focus groups with Marie Curie community nurses and members of the Patient and Family Support Team (PFST). This is an excellent opportunity for a research assistant with mixed method research experience, preferably with knowledge of palliative care and end of life care, to work within an experienced national team.

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Work with the project team at Queen's University Belfast and Marie Curie to ensure research rigour and consistency in approaches to data collection, analysis and writing the academic findings paper.
2. In consultation with the project team, collect qualitative data and analyse both quantitative and qualitative data.
3. Work with research team colleagues on writing the academic publication and conference presentation submissions and presentations.
4. Carry out administrative tasks associated with the project (e.g. organisation of project meetings and producing/circulating associated documentation).
5. Assist the research team in the design and implementation of procedures required to ensure accurate and timely formal reporting against project milestones.
6. Be committed to her/his own personal career development.
7. Carry out any other reasonable duty commensurate with the grade and purpose of the post.

Planning and Organising:

1. Plan own day-to day activity within framework of the agreed research programme.
2. Plan ahead to meet deadlines for journal publications and to prepare presentations and papers for conferences.
3. Coordinate and liaise with other members of the research group over work progress.

Resource Management Responsibilities:

1. 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.
2. Make internal and external contacts to develop knowledge and understanding and form relationships for future collaboration.
3. Attend and contribute to relevant meetings.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. Degree or equivalent in a relevant social science or healthcare discipline.
2. A minimum of 2 years' experience of applying mixed method research and techniques required for the role.
3. Ability to undertake focus groups and conduct qualitative / quantitative analysis and write up.
4. Experience of facilitating patient and public involvement in research.
5. Ability to communicate with a range of disciplines/professions.
6. Ability to interact with research colleagues.
7. Ability to analyse and communicate effectively.
8. Track record of publications.
9. Demonstrable intellectual ability.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. Have, or be about to obtain a PhD in a relevant social science or healthcare discipline such as nursing.
2. Experience of leading mixed method research.
3. Experience of working or research in palliative care.
4. Proven ability to manage a research project.
5. Evidence of good organisational and administrative skills.
6. Experience of working in a research team (including remotely).
7. Record of publication in health service related journals.
8. Experience of presenting research at conferences to a wide variety of audiences.
9. Highly self-motivated and hardworking.