Candidate Information

Position: Research Fellow
School/Department: Centre for Public Health
Reference: 22/110191
Closing Date: Monday 3 October 2022
Salary: £35,333 per annum
Anticipated Interview Date: Friday 14 October 2022
Duration: Available until 31 March 2026

JOB PURPOSE:

The Centre for Public Health is seeking to recruit an experienced and motivated Research Fellow to work jointly across the Administrative Data Research Centre Northern Ireland (ADRC NI) and DATAMIND funded research programmes with a particular focus on hard to reach and socially excluded groups of the population.

The Administrative Data Research Centre Northern Ireland (ADRC NI) is part of ADR UK (Administrative Data Research UK), a partnership transforming the way researchers access the UK's wealth of public sector data, to enable better informed policy decisions that improve people's lives. DATAMIND is the Health Data Research Hub for Mental Health funded by the Medical Research Council (MRC) and Health Data Research (HDR) UK, funded to maximise the utilisation of UK's rich mental health data to enable coordinated research, with the ultimate aim of improving lives.

In the first instance the post holder will undertake a programme of work utilising linked administrative datasets to examine the impact of interaction with social services in childhood on a range of social and health factors including mental ill-health. The post requires strong stakeholder engagement skills as it will include working closely with external stakeholders from statuatory and voluntary sectors.

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Carry out analyses, critical evaluations, and interpretations using methodologies and other techniques appropriate to area of research.
2. Liase with data custodians to secure sharing of and understand finer details of research datasets.
3. Oversee the creation of appropriate research databases which incorporate adequate safeguards of confidentiality.
4. Prepare, as necessary, submissions to Ethics Committees and other regulatory bodies and Data Transfer Agreements with data custodians.
5. Prepare research datasets, clean and create data dictionaries.
6. Prepare papers for publication in national and international journals and presentations at national and international conferences.
7. Develop a public engagement strategy related to this project and initiate dialogue with relevant stakeholders and policy makers.
8. Support the establishment and coordination of a steering committee to ensure representation and participation of hard to reach groups in project delivery.
9. Ensure adherence to project milestones and be responsible for regular production of progress reports.
10. Assist the Principal Investigator in the preparation of funding proposals and applications to external bodies.
11. Draft and present regular progress reports on research for the funders and for external 'audiences' in order to disseminate and publicise research findings.
12. Carry out routine administrative tasks associated with effective research project management in order to ensure that work tasks are completed on time and within budget (including the organisation of project meetings and documentation, financial control and risk assessment relating to given research activities).
13. Read and analyse academic papers, journals and textbooks in order to keep abreast of developments in own specialism and health and well-being research of migrants and contribute to idea generation and data mining.

14. Undertake relevant training and professional development as appropriate.
15. To assist in supervision of post-graduate students as appropriate.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:
1. Have or be about to obtain a relevant PhD in epidemiology, social sciences, applied statistics, data science or public health-related area such as pharmacy or psychology.
2. At least 3 years relevant research experience of working with hard to reach or socially excluded groups, such as children known to social services or prisoner groups.
3. Experience of analysing large scale datasets in a Trusted Research Environment (TRE).
4. Experience of using statistical packages such as STATA or R or SPSS.
5. Experience of relevant methodological approaches and statistical analysis techniques (e.g. regression, cox proportional hazards etc).
6. Experience of working with policy makers and other statutory stakeholders.
7. Ability to work in a multi-disciplinary environment as part of a research team.
8. Ability to deal competently with administrative tasks.
9. Excellent IT skills e.g. Microsoft Office suite.
10. Excellent oral and written communication skills.
11. Ability to write reports and meet deadlines.
12. Excellent organisational skills.
13. Excellent inter-personal skills.
14. Evidence of good presentation skills.
15. Ability to build contacts and participate in internal and external networks.
16. Ability to work independently and on own initiative.
17. Willingness to travel to meet the needs of the post.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:
1. A primary degree in a health, social sciences, public health, or statistics-related subject.
2. Master's degree in Research Methods, Data Science, Public Health or related discipline.
3. Research activity related to use of large administrative datasets including health and social care data.
4. Experience of advanced statistical techniques.
5. Experience of data governance and issues related to data linkage.
6. Good publication record commensurate with the stage of career.
7. Ability to contribute to broader management and administrative processes.
8. Strong commitment to a career in research.