

Candidate Information

Position: Research Fellow (part time)
School/Department: Centre for Public Health
Reference: 23/111265
Closing Date: Monday 16 October 2023
Salary: £37,841 - £40,134 per annum, pro rata
Anticipated Interview Date: Thursday 2 November
Duration: Fixed term until 31 January 2027

JOB PURPOSE:

The post will entail working as part of a wider research team on a HSC R&D Division-funded project which feeds into an NIHR-funded randomised controlled trial (RCT) entitled: Evaluation of a sustainable obesity prevention programme delivered at scale 'HENRY' (Health, Exercise, Nutrition for the Really Young): Effectiveness, cost-effectiveness and its role in obesity prevention within the wider complex system.

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. To be responsible for the set-up and day-to-day running of the Northern Ireland (NI) component of the wider NIHR RCT 'HENRY III', including execution of study protocol as appropriate, data collection (qualitative and quantitative), data entry and data management and analysis.
2. To assist with preparation and submission of ethical and research governance paperwork.
3. To work with the wider NIHR trial team to recruit NI-based PPI input and coordinate this as required for the trial.
4. To develop SOPs for NI in line with the wider NIHR-funded trial and adapt study procedures as necessary.
5. To recruit children's centres (Surestarts) to the RCT and engage them in the research process for the RCT.
6. Work alongside NI Clinical Research Network staff to ensure completion of baseline and follow-up assessments from parent-child dyads as required.
7. To complete baseline and follow-up assessments from children's centre (Surestarts) staff.
8. To observe the confidentiality of participant information at all times, in accordance with Data Protection legislation.
9. To assist with maintenance of study databases and transferring of data.
10. To plan, and deliver the wider complex systems piece of qualitative research including study design, ethical and governance paperwork, data collection and analysis.
11. To ensure adherence to project milestones.
12. To work closely with other members of the NIHR-funded team on the HENRY RCT and systems research.
13. To draft and present regular progress reports for the research team, Trial Steering Committee, research funders (HSC R&D Division and NIHR) and external audiences.
14. To prepare, in consultation with the wider research team, material for publication in national and international journals and presentations at international conferences.
15. To carry out routine administrative tasks associated with the research project to ensure that the work is completed on time. These might include for example, organisation of project meetings and documentation, financial control, risk assessment of research activities.
16. To assist with the development of applications for funding.
17. To assist with supervision of PhD, Masters and Undergraduate students who may be working on related research.
18. To read academic papers, journals and textbooks to keep abreast of developments in own specialism and related disciplines.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. Have or be about to obtain a PhD in Public Health, Nutrition, Dietetics or a closely related discipline.
2. Specific, recent, relevant experience in human nutrition/dietetics, obesity or other closely related areas.
3. Experience of undertaking (design, delivery, and/or evaluation) of public health interventions/services.

4. Experience of undertaking (design, execution and reporting) qualitative research.
5. Experience of recruiting, retaining and engaging with participants for research, including for data collection.
6. Experience of preparing ethical approval paperwork for a human study.
7. Experience using statistical software packages, e.g. SPSS or similar.
8. Excellent IT skills.
9. Excellent organisational skills.
10. Excellent inter-personal skills.
11. Evidence of ability to deal competently with administrative tasks.
12. Excellent oral and written communication skills.
13. Evidence of ability to write reports and meet deadlines.
14. Clear and confident communicator.
15. Ability to give formal presentations.
16. Ability to communicate with non-academic audiences.
17. Ability to work independently and on own initiative.
18. Ability to work outside normal hours when necessary.
19. Access to transport and willingness to travel to meet the needs of the post.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. Proven ability to work in a multi-disciplinary environment as part of a research team.
2. Recent experience of research in the complex area of obesity including understanding of the sensitivities surrounding excess weight.
3. Experience of research examining the wider obesity system.
4. Experience of working with individuals in disadvantaged communities e.g. via children's centres.
5. Experience of working with families regarding healthy lifestyles.
6. Good publication track record commensurate with experience.
7. Experience of undertaking PPI as part of a research study and using it to shape research.
8. Proven ability to participate in or initiate collaborative research.
9. Evidence of having co-ordinated a human research project from inception to successful completion.
10. Strong commitment to a career in research.