

Candidate Information

Position:	Research Assistant (x 2 posts)
School/Department:	School of Psychology
Reference:	23/111512
Closing Date:	Monday 22 January 2024
Salary:	£19,214 per annum
Anticipated Interview Date:	Wednesday 7 February 2024
Duration:	12 Months

JOB PURPOSE:

The purpose of this job is to assist in research activities related to the ongoing NIHR CHOICE trial and HEE Dental RECUR Brief Negotiated Interview (DR-BNI) work1. The aim of the CHOICE trial is to evaluate the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness in NHS primary care of a novel intervention (Dental RECUR – Brief Negotiated Interview) and usual care versus usual care alone, to prevent dental caries in children. The HEE work involves scaling up the DR-BNI for improving oral health in children nationally. The successful candidate will work alongside Professor Pauline Adair, Dr Marc Edwards, as well as the wider research team.

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. To assist in the transcribing and fidelity monitoring of DR-BNI intervention recordings.
2. To assist in the delivery, transcribing, and analysis of focus group interviews as part of the process evaluation.
3. To assist in the study within a trial (SWAT) and school outreach for recruitment of participants.
4. To assist in the scaling up of the DR-BNI intervention for improving oral health in children nationally, including preparation of training materials for learning platform delivery and organising and delivering a hands-on workshop for international feedback using a nominal group technique.
5. Produce high quality research outputs consistent with project aims and commensurate with career stage. This will include collaborating and co-authoring with PI and project team (as appropriate) on outputs.
6. In consultation with the project team, promote research milestones and outputs at national and international conferences and high quality papers in peer reviewed journals.
7. Assist grant holder in the preparation of funding proposals and applications to external bodies.
8. Carry out occasional educational supervision, demonstrating or lecturing duties within the post holder's area of expertise and under the direct guidance of a member of academic staff.
9. Undertake supplementary duties relevant to the success of the project including administrative duties and additional training and development activities as required.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. A degree (UG or MSc) in psychology or very closely related subject.
2. Relevant experience to include:
 - Experience in applied psychology research and the application of quantitative and qualitative data analysis.
 - Experience working in applied psychology and health behaviour change.
 - Experience handling qualitative data/transcribing interviews.
3. Demonstrable attention to detail and accuracy in handling data.
4. Demonstrable awareness of good clinical practice principles (e.g., compliance with study protocol, confidentiality).
5. Knowledge of fidelity monitoring and implementation processes in clinical trials.
6. Willingness to undertake additional training in research methods and other related skills as required.
7. Practical problem-solving skills, independence of thought and initiative.
8. Ability to confidently communicate complex information effectively in oral and written format.
9. Ability to build relationships to develop internal and external networks.
10. Ability to assess and organise resources.

11. Willingness to travel to meet the requirements of the research project.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. Working towards a PhD in the area of applied or health psychology.
2. A publication record which is commensurate with career stage and experience.
3. Previous experience in oral health research projects that deliver against targets and timelines, preferably within an interdisciplinary environment.
4. Familiarity with governance and ethical issues related to NHS research.
5. Interest in health psychology research.
6. Application of SMART goals for health behaviour change
7. Knowledge of motivational interviewing and behaviour change techniques.