

Candidate Information

Position:	Postdoctoral Researcher
School/Department:	School of Medicine, Dentistry and Biomedical Sciences
Reference:	24/111623
Closing Date:	Monday 4 March 2024
Salary:	£37,841 - £45,148 per annum
Anticipated Interview Date:	Thursday 21 March 2024
Duration:	Fixed Term Contract - Available for 5 Months

JOB PURPOSE:

The successful candidate of this exciting new post will work on reducing the burden of disease for those in Northern Ireland living with visual impairment. The successful candidate will become a member of the QUB Centre for Public Health, Belfast Ophthalmic Reading Centre (BORC) working with Professor Peto.

The programme of research is focused on building strategies for the society by interviewing patients with visual loss and their carers, healthcare professionals and charities to gather in-depth view of what interventions and solution might be beneficial here in NI. The research will also allow for barriers to be identified. The postholder will be working closely with the team involved in certification data and will build on the existing information in NI.

The post will involve working with Professor Tunde Peto, the Belfast Ophthalmic Reading Centre (BORC) and other key researchers in living with visual impairment, their carers and the healthcare/charity teams involved in their daily life and medical care.

The post will involve conducting research into impact, barriers and enablers for good quality of life for those impacted by visual loss in Northern Ireland and will include running focus groups, analysing qualitative and quantitative data. Conducting scoping review on related topics with the view of developing it into a systematic review (should there be a possibility to do so), writing academic papers, presenting at conferences and working within a multidisciplinary team and external organisations and charities.

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Intelligence gathering on parties other than the patients themselves in care for those visually impaired (self-care, institutional care, societal aspects).
2. Organise focus groups for answering relevant questions.
3. Analyse the data using the relevant qualitative methods where appropriate.
4. Maintain an active research profile and provide additional scientific input into a larger team of ophthalmic research at CPH.
5. Initiate and lead parts of the research team in delivering a detailed project plan for the research, in accordance with the funder's requirements.
6. Support the project team with routine administrative duties as requested (e.g. arranging research group meetings, helping organise travel, etc).
7. Maintain the relevant social media account, and keeping these up to date with research materials and project publications.
8. Co-ordinate the project activities with the research team and stakeholders.
9. Provide regular progress reports to members of the research group, external audiences nationally and internationally and external bodies to disseminate and publicize research findings.
10. Prepare material for publication in national and international journals and presentations at international conferences.
11. Read academic papers, journals and textbooks to keep abreast of developments in own specialism and related disciplines and engage in technical training as needed.
12. Lead relevant outreach activities on behalf of the Group/Centre.
13. Use research resources as appropriate utilising these in an effective and efficient manner.

14. Have substantial experience in planning, undertaking and helping with research studies.
15. Plan own day-to-day activity in accordance with agreed research programme.
16. Feedback and liaise with research supervisors on manuscript drafts and work progress.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. A PhD in a public health /visual health related topic, such as epidemiology, medical statistics, social science, built environment.
2. Recent, specific research experience and skills relevant to this project, such as experience in data analysis in health system studies with relevance to the built environment and visual impairment.
3. Experience with working with people with visual impairment.
4. Experience in working with certification of visual impairment.
5. Experience in managing and analysing community-based datasets including visual impairment and blindness statistics.
6. Experience using SPSS and also qualitative data analysis software.
7. Experience in writing and submitting academic papers, including having published on the topic of visual impairment.
8. Excellent IT skills.
9. Sufficient breadth and depth of knowledge in the relevant research methods.
10. Ability to deal with administrative tasks and keeping to deadlines.
11. Excellent oral and written communication skills with good understanding of techniques required in communicating with those with visual impairment (both orally and in writing, including accessibility features).
12. Excellent organisational skills including being able to work independently and as part of a team.
13. Ability to write reports and meet deadlines.
14. Ability and willingness to travel to meet the needs of the post.
15. Ability and willingness to work outside normal working hours.
16. May need to sign a confidentiality agreement.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. Ability to participate and initiate research collaborations with wide range of stakeholders.
2. Evidence of having co-ordinated a research project to successful completion.
3. Previous knowledge of certification of visual impairment.