



Candidate Information

Position:	Research Fellow
School/Department:	School of Social Sciences, Education and Social Work
Reference:	24/111788
Closing Date:	Monday 20 May 2024
Salary:	£37,841 per annum.
Anticipated Interview Date:	Tuesday 28 May 2024
Duration:	2 years

JOB PURPOSE:

The principal aim of the post is to undertake a programme of quantitative work conducting longitudinal analysis of child welfare data (SOSCARE) linked with maternity data (NIMATS) and area level Indicators of Multiple Deprivation (linked through postcode). The aim is to:

- Identify rates of, and factors associated with, antenatal, postnatal and early years (0-2 years) involvement with child and family social work in the general population.
- Identify rates of, and factors associated with, repeat removals of multiple children from the same mother and care outcomes.
- Map broader patterns of repeated contact with children's social care (2010-2017) and the factors which predict later statutory intervention.

This research is part of a programme of work being carried out by the Administrative Data Research Centre Northern Ireland (ADRC-NI), which is one of three UK-wide centres that have been established to facilitate the safe linkage and analysis of routine administrative datasets.

The successful candidate will have (or be about to obtain) a PhD in a relevant subject such as social sciences, applied statistics, epidemiology, public health, pharmacy or psychology, and preferably demonstrable knowledge and experience of working with large administrative datasets using statistical packages such as SPSS, STATA or R. Competence in appropriate methodological approaches and statistical analysis is expected.

MAJOR DUTIES:

- Carry out analyses, critical evaluations, and interpretations using methodologies and other techniques appropriate to area of research.
- Data wrangling, cleaning and analysis of large, linked, administrative data sets.
- Liaise with data custodians to understand finer details of research datasets.
- Oversee the creation of appropriate research databases which incorporate adequate safeguards of confidentiality.
- Prepare, as necessary, submissions to Ethics Committees and other regulatory bodies and data transfer agreements with data custodians.
- Prepare papers for publication in national and international journals and presentations at national and international conferences.
- Develop a public engagement strategy related to this project and initiate dialogue with relevant stakeholders and policy makers.
- Ensure adherence to project milestones and be responsible for regular production of progress reports.
- Assist the Principal Investigator in the preparation of funding proposals and applications to external bodies.
- Draft and present regular progress reports on research for the ADRC-NI and for external "audiences" in order to disseminate and publicise research findings.
- 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).

12. 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.
13. Undertake relevant training and professional development as appropriate.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. Have, or about to obtain, a relevant PhD in social sciences, applied statistics, epidemiology, public health, pharmacy, psychology or related area.
2. At least 3 years recent research experience relevant to this project.
3. Strong quantitative skills and experience of using statistical packages such as STATA, R or SPSS.
4. Experience of relevant methodological approaches and statistical analysis techniques.
5. Ability to work in a multi-disciplinary environment as part of a research team.
6. Sufficient breadth and depth of specialist knowledge of research methods pertinent to the present research programme.
7. Ability to deal competently with administrative tasks.
8. Knowledge and experience of using relevant statistical techniques, e.g. regression .
9. Excellent IT skills e.g. Microsoft Office suite.
10. Excellent organisational skills.
11. Excellent inter-personal skills.
12. Excellent oral and written communication skills.
13. Ability to write reports and meet deadlines.
14. 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. A Masters Degree in Public Health or Research Methods.
3. Research activity related to use of large administrative datasets.
4. Experience of advanced statistical techniques.
5. Good publication record commensurate with the stage of career.
6. Experience in use of database software.
7. Experience of data governance and issues related to data linkage.
8. Ability to contribute to broader management and administrative processes.
9. Strong commitment to a career in research.