



Candidate Information

Position:	Senior Research Fellow
School/Department:	Centre for Public Health
Reference:	24/112025
Closing Date:	Monday 22 July 2024
Salary:	£46,497-£50,790 per annum.
Anticipated Interview Date:	Wednesday 7 August 2024
Duration:	Fixed term, available until 31 July 2027

JOB PURPOSE:

This three year non-clinical fellowship post is funded by the Northern Ireland Kidney Research Fund (NIKRF - <https://nikidneyresearch.org/>) as part of recent investment to build local capacity and enhance sustainability of kidney research. The post offers the successful applicant an opportunity to develop an area of kidney research supported by a multi-disciplinary collaborative team.

Kidney disease is an increasingly prevalent chronic condition and represents a major public health concern worldwide. NIKRF has partnered with the Queen's Foundation to support a non-clinical fellow in kidney disease research, to help guide the development of improved treatments and preventive measures.

This post may include liaising with collaborators, collating existing data, coordinating meetings and workshops, generating novel data, bioinformatic analysis of new or existing data, integrating datasets, preparing regular summary reports, and leading roles in writing academic outputs and research dissemination.

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. To co-develop a detailed project plan and study objectives with the CPH kidney research team.
2. To develop an appropriate statistical analysis approach and data management plan.
3. To assist with preparation of relevant ethical and research governance documents and ensure compliance with good practice.
4. To keep abreast of relevant developments in the kidney research field.
5. To prepare regular summary reports for the CPH project team and communication to stakeholders including the Queen's Foundation and NIKRF, in particular.
6. To conduct high quality kidney research under appropriate guidance and mentorship.
7. To prepare material for publication in national and international journals, and presentations at national and international conferences, with appropriate acknowledgement of NIKRF funding.
8. To meet deadlines for journal publications, project meetings, and preparation of conference presentations and papers.
9. To assist with the preparation and submission of associated kidney research grant applications and the supervision of students.
10. To carry out routine administrative tasks associated with this research project to ensure the project is completed on time and within budget.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. Have a PhD in relevant discipline.
2. Substantial post-doctoral relevant research experience and skills.
3. Experience working with kidney health or social care research data or other fields relevant to the post.
4. Experience of project management, delivering research outcomes, and proven ability to work in a multi-disciplinary environment as part of a research team.
5. Good presentation and publication track record commensurate with career stage.
6. Excellent IT skills e.g. Microsoft Office suite.
7. Excellent organisational and leadership skills.

8. Excellent inter-personal skills.
9. Excellent oral and written communication skills.
10. Evidence of ability to write reports and meet deadlines.
11. Evidence of ability to deal competently with administrative tasks and contribute to broader management tasks.
12. Clear and confident communicator.
13. Ability to give formal presentations.
14. Ability to work independently and on own initiative.
15. Ability to act decisively and confidently.
16. Ability and willingness to travel to meet the needs of the post.
17. Ability to work flexibly as required within the remit of the post.
18. Please submit a CV, to include an abstract (max 400 words), and a short summary, of your proposed area of research to include title, aim, objectives, methods, training plan, and deliverables plus a summary of how your experience makes you a competitive applicant for this post. Please limit the latter to 1,000 words max.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. First or Upper Second Class Honours Degree in a relevant discipline, a Master's degree and / or relevant professional qualification.
2. Experience working with relevant data protection guidelines and requirements.
3. Experience in kidney research.
4. Experience of undertaking research collaboratively.
5. Experience supervising undergraduate or postgraduate taught students.
6. Experience training staff or students in area of specific expertise.
7. Experience submitting a funding proposal.
8. Experience of successful research ethics and / or governance approvals.
9. Proven ability to participate in or initiate collaborative research.
10. Evidence of having co-ordinated a research project to successful completion.
11. Experience of diverse stakeholder engagement.
12. Experience of disseminating research to lay audiences.
13. Strong commitment to a career in renal research.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

This post is also supported in partnership with the Queen's Fellowship Academy which was established in January 2020 to help recruit world leading researchers to Queen's, a key Research Strategy priority.

Current Academy Fellows are supported across three core pillars: Research and Funding; Leadership Development; Networking and Impact. Academy Fellows have access to a range of development, coaching and mentoring opportunities including:

- Fellows Writing Retreats to provide time to focus on specific pieces of writing.
- Peer-coaching group for Fellows to provide guidance and support.
- Interview Practice workshop for Fellows.
- Research Development Office support for funding applications, including sessions on specific funders, e.g. ERC in Horizon Europe and UKRI new investigator awards.
- Funding Circles, enabling Fellows to share experiences of research funding applications.
- Attendance at the Research Team Leadership Programme delivered by Advance HE.

In addition, the integration and welcome of new fellows will be supported via buddying/peer support from current fellows. Fellows will meet other researchers from across a range of disciplines through the Academy and are encouraged to network with key stakeholders by attending events at Queen's.

Potential areas for kidney disease research projects

The Centre for Public Health academic staff are currently supervising or have recently supervised kidney research in the following categories

- Improving diagnosis of kidney disease
- Molecular, metabolomic, and proteomic determinants of rare and chronic kidney disease, including applying novel multiomic and artificial intelligence approaches.
- Co-morbidities with kidney disease and exploring kidney transplant outcomes, including frailty, diabetes, cancer, and survival.
- Clinical trials, burden of kidney disease, and health economic appraisals for kidney disease
- Vascular access provision for haemodialysis patients
- Patient and public involvement in kidney research, including developing 'best practice' guidelines, patient choice in dialysis treatments, PREMs and PROMS

QUB collaborate in a number of kidney focused consortia including GENIE, the Irish Kidney Gene Project, iGeneTRAIN for kidney transplantation, and the LifeArc-Kidney Research UK Centre for Rare Kidney Diseases. Academic staff in the Centre for Public Health have a wide range of disciplinary backgrounds and can therefore offer successful postholders tailored supervision and mentorship to ensure successful research outcomes.

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