Candidate Information

Position:	Research Fellow
School/Department:	School of Medicine, Dentistry and Biomedical Sciences
Reference:	25/112774
Closing Date:	Monday 29 September 2025
Salary:	£41,519 - £46,704 per annum
Anticipated Interview Date:	Monday 13 October 2025
Duration:	36 Months

JOB PURPOSE:

This is an exciting opportunity for an experienced, highly motivated individual to join our vibrant, multidisciplinary rare disease research team. This postdoc will work within a multidisciplinary, multi-centre team as part of an international collaborative project – the LifeArc Centre for the Acceleration of Rare Disease Trials. This role provides an opportunity to work in partnership with academic and clinical colleagues, professional support teams, community groups, policy makers, and industrial collaborators. You will work within a collaborative research environment that fosters a culture of trust and mutual respect. The role requires excellent interpersonal skills alongside scientific and technical understanding relevant for rare diseases.

Although individually rare, which means affecting less than 1 in 2,000 people, all rare diseases together affect ~475 million people globally, with more than 110,000 people affected by rare diseases across Northern Ireland. Together with colleagues at the University of Birmingham and Newcastle University we are building an accelerator platform to help get more treatments to people living with rare diseases who need them, faster – the LifeArc Centre for the Acceleration of Rare Disease Trials, https://www.qub.ac.uk/sites/RareDisease/News/QueensUniversityBelfastcreatenewgroundbreaking12Mresearchcentre.html

The LifeArc Centre for the Acceleration of Rare Disease Trials based at Queens University Belfast (QUB) is looking to appoint a Post-Doctoral fellow in Health Economics, to work on Life Cycle Health Technology Assessment for rare diseases. The post is for 36 months in the first instance will have a specific focus on the implications of Risk Base Pricing for the design of on market evidence generation and the Return on Investment for developers of therapies for ultra-orphan conditions. The post holder will be working directly with Professor Christopher McCabe and his team based in the QUB's Centre for Public Health, and collaborating closely with Dr. Gurdeep Sagoo at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne. There will be opportunities to work with clinical trialists and regulatory scientists. They will work closely with Professor McCabe and two doctoral students, to develop methods to support the development and adoption of innovative therapies addressing severe unmet needs.

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Assist in developing a detailed project plan and adjusting as research needs of the project evolve to meet research objectives in accordance with best practice.
2. Conduct research under supervision within the research project and assist with the preparation of project evaluation reports.
3. Work with clerical data colleagues to manage and maintain the collection of rare disease data, assessment of the data content, and quality requirements within our LifeArc Centre for the Acceleration of Rare Disease Trials needs.
4. Provide day to day oversight of the research team undertaking a literature review of life cycle health technology assessment in the context of orphan and ultra orphan conditions in OECD and Lower and Middle Income Countries' health care systems; ensuring best practice in searching, reviewing, appraisal and reporting methods.
5. Provide day to day oversight of the development developing simulation model(s) to examine explore the efficiency of alternative on-market evidence generation strategies and risk sharing market access schemes, in one or more exemplar clinical conditions; ensuring adherence with best practice in model development, validation, optimisation, analysis and reporting.

6. Develop and test novel methods for quantifying the return on investment to investors, payers and patients from contributing to on-market evidence generation schemes for one or more exemplar clinical conditions.
7. Prepare regular summary reports for the project team and communication to stakeholders.
8. Prepare, in consultation with the project team, material for publication in national and international journals, and presentations at national and international conferences.
9. Assist with the submission of associated grant applications and the supervision of students.
10. Provide expert advice on own subject specialism to staff and students.
11. Assist with preparation of relevant ethical and research governance documents.
12. Facilitate personal and public involvement within this research project.
13. Carry out routine administrative tasks associated with this research project to ensure the project is completed on time and within budget.
14. Read academic papers, journals and textbooks to keep abreast of developments in the field and appropriately guide junior members of the team.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. Have or about to obtain* a PhD in health economics or a cognate discipline. (*must be obtained within 3 months of commencement of employment)
2. Significant, relevant research experience.
3. Experience of undertaking systematic literature reviews of applied and methodological studies in the economic evaluation of health care programmes.
4. Experience of the development, validation, analysis and reporting of complex decision analytic cost effectiveness simulation models.
5. Experience of the application of advanced value of information analysis techniques
6. Experience of project management, delivering research outcomes, and proven ability to work in a multi-disciplinary environment as part of a research team.
7. A publication track record commensurate with the stage of career.
8. Excellent IT skills e.g. Microsoft Office suite.
9. Excellent organisational and leadership skills.
10. Excellent inter-personal skills.
11. Excellent oral and written communication skills.
12. Evidence of ability to write reports and meet deadlines.
13. Evidence of ability to deal competently with administrative tasks and contribute to broader management tasks.
14. Clear and confident communicator.
15. Ability to give formal presentations.
16. Ability to work independently and on own initiative.
17. Ability to act decisively and confidently.
18. Access to transport and willingness to travel to meet the needs of the post.
19. Ability to work outside normal hours when necessary.

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 of using Value of Information methods to inform the design of clinical trials.
3. Experience of working with national or international Health Technology Assessment Agencies (eg NICE, CADTH, INAHTA).
4. Experience of working with the private sector on the economic evaluation of health care programmes.
5. Experience working as part of international networks / consortia for multicentre projects.
6. Experience developing a funding proposal.
7. Experience supervising students.
8. Proven ability to participate in or initiate collaborative research.
9. Evidence successfully managing resources.
10. Evidence of having co-ordinated a research project to successful completion.
11. Strong commitment to a career in Research.