

Candidate Information

Position: Senior Research Fellow
School/Department: School of Medicine, Dentistry and Biomedical Sciences
Reference: 25/112937
Closing Date: Monday 3 November 2025
Salary: £51,016 per annum
Anticipated Interview Date: Tuesday 2 December 2025
Duration: 36 months

JOB PURPOSE:

This three year non-clinical fellowship post is funded by the Northern Ireland Kidney Research Fund 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 and manage 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.

MAJOR DUTIES:

Teaching:

1. Contribute to the work of the School through limited teaching and associated tasks within own research specialism.
2. Be responsible for practical work where applicable and advise students on techniques.

Research:

1. Co-develop a detailed research plan and study objectives with the CPH kidney research team.
2. Develop an appropriate statistical analysis approach and data management plan.
3. Assist with preparation of relevant ethical and research governance documents and ensure compliance with good practice.
4. Keep abreast of relevant developments in the kidney research field.
5. Prepare regular summary reports for the CPH project team and communication to stakeholders including the Queen's Foundation and NIKRF, in particular.
6. Conduct high quality kidney research under appropriate guidance and mentorship.
7. Sustain a high quality publication record by publishing in leading international peer-reviewed journals and/or monographs or edited collections as appropriate to discipline and by presenting at conferences.
8. Develop research proposals and secure the necessary funding as principal investigator/co-investigator from suitable sources, to grow the research specialism and to support yourself and your own research team/colleagues, as appropriate.
9. Sustain a personal research plan by setting research targets, goals and a programme of implementation; monitor and manage project finances; manage and supervise the work of research students and assistants; and liaise with funders and other stakeholders internally and externally.
10. Develop research activities with potential for economic, societal or health impact.
11. Develop and maintain links with colleagues in national and international institutions.
12. Supervise PhD students during their research programmes and other students undertaking project/dissertation work as appropriate to the discipline.
13. Direct, mentor and develop research staff, where appropriate.
14. Ensure that research projects and detailed objectives are completed on time and within budget.

Administration/Contribution to the Community:

1. Contribute to the School's outreach strategy by developing external links.

2. Develop links with relevant research groups, industries and external bodies to encourage technology transfer opportunities and create opportunities for future research projects.
3. Carry out designated administrative duties.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. First or Upper Second Class Honours Degree and have a PhD in relevant discipline.
2. At least 2 years' recent and relevant post-doctoral 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. A high academic standing with a growing reputation in research within subject specialism.
6. A sustained publication record in peer reviewed/refereed journals or invited presentations.
7. Excellent IT skills e.g. Microsoft Office suite.
8. Excellent organisational and leadership skills.
9. Excellent inter-personal skills.
10. Excellent oral and written communication skills.
11. Evidence of ability to write reports and meet deadlines.
12. Evidence of ability to deal competently with administrative tasks and contribute to broader management tasks.
13. Clear and confident communicator.
14. Ability to give formal presentations.
15. Ability to work independently and on own initiative.
16. Ability to act decisively and confidently.
17. Ability to supervise work of others in research team.
18. Ability and willingness to travel to meet the needs of the post.
19. Ability to work flexibly as required within the remit of the post.

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.

FOCUS AREA FOR KIDNEY DISEASE RESEARCH

Ongoing renal research in the Centre for Public includes:

- 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, iGeneTRiN 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.

Informal enquiries may be directed to: Dr Jill Kilner at j.kilner@qub.ac.uk.