

Candidate Information

Position:	Research Fellow (Qualitative)
School/Department:	School of Medicine, Dentistry and Biomedical Sciences
Reference:	25/112983
Closing Date:	Monday 1 December 2025
Salary:	£41,519 - £46,704 per annum
Anticipated Interview Date:	Wednesday 17 December 2025
Duration:	16 months

JOB PURPOSE:

This post offers an excellent opportunity for a highly motivated researcher to join the team working on the Wellcome-funded project "Understanding causes and impacts of financial toxicity among cancer patients, survivors, and their families in the United Kingdom (GIFT)." The postholder will lead the qualitative components of the project, which involve interviews with cancer patients, survivors, family members, and key informants (e.g. health professionals, voluntary sector representatives). They will take responsibility for designing interview guides, recruiting participants, conducting interviews, and analysing qualitative data, leading to publications and dissemination of findings.

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Develop and refine qualitative research tools (e.g. interview and focus group guides).
2. Recruit participants for qualitative interviews and/or focus groups, ensuring representation across diverse sociodemographic groups.
3. Recruit and engage key informants, including representatives from voluntary sector organisations, health professionals, and other stakeholders.
4. Conduct qualitative interviews and/or focus groups with patients, survivors, family members, and stakeholders.
5. Ensure interviews are conducted ethically, sensitively, and in line with good practice, including informed consent and data confidentiality.
6. Perform qualitative data management, coding, and thematic analysis using appropriate software (e.g. NVivo).
7. Prepare results for dissemination, including peer-reviewed publications, reports, and presentations.
8. Present findings at project meetings, workshops, and relevant conferences.
9. Contribute to wider project activities, including stakeholder engagement and impact initiatives.
10. Undertake literature reviews and stay updated on relevant developments in cancer survivorship, financial toxicity, and health inequalities research.
11. Carry out routine administrative tasks associated with the research project/s to ensure that project/s are completed on time and within budget. These might include organisation of project meetings and documentation, financial control, risk assessment of research activities.
12. Undertake any other duties as required by the Principal Investigator that contribute to the success of the project.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. Have or be about to obtain (have submitted the thesis) a PhD in a relevant field (e.g. public health, sociology, psychology, health services research, anthropology, or other social/health sciences with qualitative expertise).
2. Significant, recent, relevant experience conducting qualitative research (e.g. semi-structured interviews, focus groups).
3. Experience in participant recruitment and engagement, including with patients and/or community groups.
4. Experience in qualitative data analysis, including coding and thematic analysis.
5. Contribution to authorship of peer-reviewed journal articles commensurate with stage of career.
6. Experience working in a multidisciplinary research environment.
7. In-depth knowledge of qualitative methodologies and data analysis approaches.
8. Understanding of ethical issues in health research, including informed consent and confidentiality.

9. Excellent IT skills (e.g. Microsoft Office, reference management software).
10. Ability to manage and prioritise multiple tasks and meet deadlines.
11. Strong academic writing skills.
12. Excellent oral communication skills and ability to present qualitative findings clearly to academic and non-academic audiences.
13. Ability to produce engaging presentations and reports.
14. Motivation to work in cancer research, with a commitment to improving outcomes and experiences for patients and survivors.
15. Ability to work independently and as part of a multidisciplinary/multicultural team.
16. Strong interpersonal skills and sensitivity when working with patients and families.
17. High attention to detail and commitment to research integrity.
18. Willingness to take initiative and contribute ideas to the project.
19. Ability to travel within the UK for participant interviews, meetings, and events.
20. Willingness to work flexibly, including occasional evenings/weekends, to accommodate participants' availability.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. Training or certification in qualitative research methods.
2. Additional qualifications in health inequalities, cancer research, or health policy.
3. Experience working with cancer patients, survivors, or other vulnerable populations.
4. Experience conducting qualitative research with stakeholders (e.g. charities, clinicians, policy makers).
5. Experience using qualitative analysis software (e.g. NVivo).
6. Experience presenting qualitative findings at conferences or workshops.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The GIFT project is a 5-year Wellcome-funded study examining the causes and impacts of financial toxicity among cancer patients, survivors, and their families in the UK. The postholder will be embedded in a vibrant research environment and will contribute to both the scientific and societal impact of the project.

This role will also provide the postholder with:

- The opportunity to develop and lead qualitative research within a large, multidisciplinary project.
- Opportunities to attend and present at relevant academic conferences, workshops, and engagement events.
- Access to funding for relevant training and skills development.
- Mentorship and guidance in academic career development, including support with grant writing and fellowship applications.
- Opportunities to develop networks with researchers, charities, clinicians, and policy stakeholders across the UK and internationally.