Candidate Information

Position: Research Assistant (Optometrist) (Clinical Co-ordinator)
School/Department: iREACH Health
Reference: 26/113167
Closing Date: Monday 9 March 2026
Salary: £35,136 - £40,316 per annum (with an additional market supplement)
Anticipated Interview Date: Friday 27 March 2026

JOB PURPOSE:

The post holder will work as a key member of the Northern Ireland Clinical Research Facility (NICRF) team to support, coordinate and deliver high-quality clinical research, with a focus on Ophthalmology and Vision Science studies.

The role involves coordinating and contributing to a portfolio of clinical trials and research studies on a day-to-day basis, working both independently and under appropriate supervision as required. The post holder will undertake agreed responsibilities within study delivery, which may include participant screening and recruitment, informed consent, clinical assessments, patient care, study management and follow-up, in accordance with study protocols and local and national regulatory, research and professional guidelines, policies and standard operating procedures.

The post holder will also be responsible for associated administrative activities required to support the effective conduct of clinical trials and research studies, and will contribute to wider clinical research, service evaluation and audit activity as agreed with the NICRF Director.

Through this role, the post holder will support the growth of the NICRF clinical trial portfolio and contribute to excellence in clinical trial delivery. The post will initially be based within the Northern Ireland Clinical Research Facility (NICRF) and will relocate to the iREACH Health building at Belfast City Hospital on its opening.

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Undertake research activities including performing ophthalmic refraction and visual function testing according to standard protocols, critical evaluation and interpretation of the results in consultation with the NICRF director and the research grant holder as appropriate.
2. Identify potential study participants through interpretation of retinal images (Colour fundus photographs and Optical Coherence Tomographs).
3. Consent participants, as appropriate, and facilitate informed consent process study participation, according to Standard Operating Procedures and ethical and Good Clinical Practice (GCP) standards.
4. To act as part of NICRF team supporting trials within the NICRF.
5. To work in a multi-disciplinary environment within the NICRF and to communicate effectively with other relevant healthcare professionals.
6. To perform techniques requiring highly developed skills in ophthalmic examination techniques e.g. slit lamp biomicroscopy.
7. To undertake delegated teaching and training of medical, nursing and other professional staff as required.
8. Present regular progress reports on research to the NICRF team and/or external teams.
9. Write up results and contribute to the production of research reports, publications and proposals.
10. Carry out routine administrative duties in the NICRF as requested, e.g. sending out participant invitations, arranging participant appointments, data entry, data management, arranging meetings.
11. To complete accurate paper and electronic case report forms.
12. To abide by all QUB and NICRF policies and to comply with health and safety regulations.
13. To follow research and clinical protocols and best working practice, relevant to optometric aspects within the NICRF.

14. Carry out any clinical trial coordinator activities or duties designated by a line manager and which fall within the general ambit of the post.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. Degree or equivalent in a relevant subject area e.g. Optometry.
2. Registered Optometrist (GOC Registered and appropriate professional indemnity cover). Or eligibility to be registered to fulfil the requirements of the post.
3. Relevant experience in Optometry, post registration.
4. Sufficient breadth or depth of specialist knowledge in the discipline and of research methods and techniques to work within own area.
5. Experience taking retinal images using either fundus photography or Optical Coherence Tomography.
6. Relevant computing skills including Microsoft Office.
7. Ability to interact with research colleagues and support staff.
8. Ability to analyse and communicate effectively.
9. Ability to work alone and as part of a team as appropriate.
10. Excellent interpersonal skills.
11. Flexibility to work the hours required for the job.
12. Willing to handle participant samples.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. A post graduate qualification in a relevant discipline.
2. Holds a current GCP certificate.
3. Research or clinical trials experience.
4. Experience in Hospital Optometry or use of advanced imaging and examination techniques.
5. Knowledge of clinical trials and consent process.
6. Knowledge of Research Governance and Ethics.
7. Knowledge of relevant databases, statistical and presentation packages.
8. Ability to analyse and communicate research data effectively in different settings.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Informal Enquiries to Judy.Bradley@qub.ac.uk

This is a full-time post, however part-time hours (minimum of 0.5 fte) and job share arrangements will be considered.

iREACH Health is an exciting new project for healthcare in Northern Ireland, the outcome of creative collaboration between academia, industry, the NHS, and public sector/government stakeholders to drive UK science and innovation and is focused on modernising our research infrastructure.

iREACH Health will drive continuous improvement in patient care and outcomes through innovation by integrating the activities of clinicians, life scientists and data scientists with industry partners to identify and develop new diagnostic tests, treatments, and health related technologies.

iREACH Health is due to be operational in early 2027, provides the platform to create a patient-centred, pro-innovation and digitally enabled clinical research environment.