

## Candidate Information

<b>Position:</b>	Research Development and Partnership Manager (Clinical Trials)
<b>School/Department:</b>	iREACH Health
<b>Reference:</b>	26/113275
<b>Closing Date:</b>	Monday 4 May 2026
<b>Salary:</b>	£51,016 - £62,695 per annum
<b>Anticipated Interview Date:</b>	Friday 22 May 2026
<b>Duration:</b>	3 years

### JOB PURPOSE:

The Research Development & Partnerships Manager (Clinical Trials) will play a key role in supporting the growth and delivery of iREACH Health's clinical trials portfolio. Working in close partnership with academic leaders, clinical investigators, and external stakeholders, the postholder will lead and coordinate the development of competitive, high-value research funding applications that strengthen Northern Ireland's clinical research capacity.

The role will focus on identifying strategic funding opportunities, shaping collaborative partnerships, and supporting the development of compelling cases for investment across priority clinical and translational research areas. A core part of the role will involve supporting clinical trial income generation and portfolio expansion, providing expert advice and hands-on development support to ensure proposals are strategically aligned and operationally deliverable.

The post holder will operate both independently and as part of a dynamic team, taking responsibility for developing and leading a strategic approach to research development funding.

### MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Drive growth in external research funding, developing and maintaining a strong pipeline of investigator-led and collaborative studies, with particular focus on clinical trials, translational research, and partnerships aligned to iREACH Health priorities.
2. Maintain up to date expertise across the research and innovation funding landscape, (NIHR, UKRI, charities, government), translating funder strategy into opportunities appropriate for investigator-led, NHS-based, and collaborative research.
3. Lead the coordination and development of high-quality funding applications, working with investigators, research development colleagues, contracts, governance, and iREACH Health leadership team to ensure proposals are competitive, compliant, and operationally credible.
4. Identify and help shape strategically important opportunities, providing expert advice on consortium composition, governance arrangements, leadership models and delivery approaches, particularly for investigator-initiated clinical trials.
5. Provide tailored research development support to investigators, including bid planning, Strategic advice and pipeline development, to enable clinicians and academics to lead high-quality investigator-initiated studies.
6. Develop and sustain effective partnerships across QUB, BHSCT, funders, and external organisations to support portfolio growth and cross-sector collaboration in line with the University's Research & Innovation Strategy 2030.
7. Coordinate the development, and submission of large-scale and complex bids, (NIHR, UKRI, and major charities), providing guidance on bid structure, governance, and delivery models.
8. Support delivery of an external engagement plan to strengthen relationships with funding bodies, charities and government bodies, helping position iREACH Health as a supportive environment for investigator-led research.
9. Represent iREACH Health at regional and national forums, supporting relationship-building, intelligence-gathering, and visibility for investigator-led clinical trials.
10. Design and deliver capacity-building activities, (e.g. workshops and networking events), to support clinicians and academics in developing and leading investigator-initiated studies.

11. Embed and share best practice in research development, drawing on funder feedback and panel insights to improve proposal quality and success rates.

#### **ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:**

1. 2:1 Honours Degree (or equivalent qualification) in a relevant STEM, health, life sciences, or biomedical discipline, or substantial relevant experience working in a comparable research development, clinical trials, or partnerships role.
2. Significant recent experience of working within a research-intensive environment (academic, NHS/public sector, or commercial) or a research funding organisation, with detailed and current knowledge of the UK research funding landscape (e.g. NIHR, UKRI, charities, government, and relevant international schemes).
3. Proven experience of initiating, shaping, and supporting successful collaborative research funding applications, including complex, multi-partner bids.
4. Demonstrable track record of contributing to the securing of significant external research income through competitive grant or partnership routes.
5. Experience of developing or managing strategic funding pipelines and identifying opportunities to grow research income in priority thematic areas.
6. Demonstrable project management capability, with the ability to manage multiple complex workstreams, respond to changing priorities, and deliver high-quality outcomes within tight deadlines.
7. Strong interpersonal and influencing skills, with the ability to build trusted relationships across clinical, academic, professional services, and external partner communities.
8. Comprehensive knowledge of the UK research funding and innovation landscape, including awareness of current national priorities (e.g., Life Sciences Sector Plan, Clinical Trials Reform, NIHR/UKRI strategy).
9. Strategic awareness of the Higher Education and NHS research environment, including regulatory, governance, and policy drivers influencing research funding and delivery.
10. Proven ability to engage credibly with senior academic and clinical leaders, providing constructive challenge and strategic advice to shape competitive funding propositions.
11. Evidence of delivering projects to agreed milestones and achieving measurable impact.
12. Excellent written and verbal communication skills, with the ability to produce clear, persuasive, and strategically aligned funding proposals, briefing papers, and senior-level documentation.
13. Ability to present complex information clearly and confidently to a range of audiences, including clinical investigators, senior academic leaders, external partners, and funders.
14. Demonstrated ability to assess, prioritise, and manage competing demands effectively within a complex and fast-paced environment.
15. High level of professional integrity, discretion, and judgement when handling sensitive or confidential information.
16. Strong organisational skills, with a proactive and solution-focused approach to problem solving.
17. Confidence to provide constructive challenge and strategic advice to senior stakeholders where appropriate.
18. Willingness to travel nationally/internationally as required.

#### **DESIRABLE CRITERIA:**

1. Postgraduate qualification (Master's or PhD) in a STEM, health, biomedical, or related discipline.
2. Professional accreditation or membership relevant to research development or research management (e.g. ARMA or equivalent).
3. Experience working within a clinical trials environment or Clinical Research Facility (CRF), including understanding of trial governance, delivery models, and regulatory considerations.
4. Experience of leading or coordinating major multi-institutional or multi-sector bids exceeding £5 million in value.
5. Experience of engaging with industry partners or contributing to commercial clinical trial development and income growth.
6. Formal project management training or accreditation (e.g., PRINCE2, Agile, MSP or equivalent).
7. Experience of operating in a matrix environment across university–NHS–industry interfaces.
8. Understanding of commercial clinical trial delivery models and income recovery mechanisms within NHS or academic settings.
9. Experience of designing and delivering research development workshops or training programmes.

#### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Informal enquiries may be directed to Sinead Cahill, email: [sinead.cahill@qub.ac.uk](mailto:sinead.cahill@qub.ac.uk)