Candidate Information

Position: Research Fellow (0.6FTE)
School/Department: Centre for Public Health
Reference: 26/113432
Closing Date: Monday 6 July 2026
Salary: £41,519 - £49,536 per annum, pro-rata.
Anticipated Interview Date: Thursday 8 August 2026
Duration: 3 years and 11 months or to 31 January 2029, whichever is soonest

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 projects including the LifeArc Centre for the Acceleration of Rare Disease Trials and the LifeArc – Kidney Research UK Centre for Rare Kidney Disease, supported by the NI kidney research fund. 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. Recent rare disease initiatives by our team include the development of an online support tool for carers of people living with a rare disease, appraisals of the impact of socioeconomic factors, novel approaches for molecular diagnostics, building digital infrastructure to support diagnosis and care pathways, and the recently funded £12 million LifeArc Centre for the Acceleration of Rare Disease Trials (RD-TAP). 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. The LifeArc Centre for Acceleration of Rare Disease Trials | Rare Disease Focus: supporting rare disease throughout all communities. Our research team has decades of experience researching kidney disease, primarily in adults, and we are delighted through this new initiative to extend that expertise and resources to rare kidney diseases.

This postdoc will work on epidemiology studies, harmonising multiomic data with associated analysis to support diagnosis and treatment of rare kidney diseases, and helping the team integrate diverse datasets. This cost-effective, carefully planned project will also provide excellent training and experience for a dedicated post-doctoral research fellow in a broad range of techniques. The post may involve liaising with international collaborators, generating new molecular data, collating and linking existing data, coordinating meetings and workshops, bioinformatic analysis of data, integrating datasets, preparing regular summary reports, and taking the lead writing academic outputs and research dessemination.

Main Activities/Responsibilities:

1. To 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. To conduct research under supervision within the research project and assist with the preparation of project evaluation reports.
3. To work with data colleagues to manage and maintain the collection of rare kidney disease data, assessment of the data content, and quality requirements.
4. To maintain continued quality assurance & curation of data generation, collation, integration, analysis, and preparation for public archiving.
5. To promote data harmonisation procedures across international cohorts and participate in working groups within consortia.
6. To generate new molecular data using high density arrays, next generation sequencing, and / or multiomic approaches.
7. To conduct statistical and bioinformatic analysis of multi-omic datasets with an emphasis on genetic, epigenetic and transcriptomic analyses using cross-sectional and longitudinal study designs
8. To summarise relevant data harmonisation requirements and ensure data is compliant with ethical and governance requirements.
9. To prepare regular summary reports for the project team and communication to stakeholders.

10. To prepare, in consultation with the project team, material for publication in national and international journals, and presentations at national and international conferences.
11. To assist with the submission of associated grant applications and the supervision of students.
12. To provide expert advice on own subject specialism to staff and students.
13. To assist with preparation of relevant ethical and research governance documents.
14. To facilitate personal and public involvement within this research project.
15. To carry out routine administrative tasks associated with this research project to ensure the project is completed on time and within budget.
16. o 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 relevant discipline.
2. Significant relevant research experience.
3. Experience handling biological samples to generate human, blood-derived multi-omic data.
4. Experience quality controlling and analysing multi-omic biological data.
5. Experience analysing human health and social care datasets.
6. Experience working with complex data management systems, integrating diverse data in a range of formats.
7. Demonstrated experience of research methods and techniques pertinent to molecular epidemiology, longitudinal studies, and / or public health research.
8. Experience of using data analysis packages such as R.
9. Experience of project management, delivering research outcomes, and proven ability to work in a multi-disciplinary environment as part of a research team.
10. A publication track record commensurate with the stage of career.
11. Excellent IT skills e.g. Microsoft Office suite.
12. Excellent organisational and leadership skills.
13. Excellent inter-personal skills.
14. Excellent oral and written communication skills.
15. Evidence of ability to write reports and meet deadlines.
16. Evidence of ability to deal competently with administrative tasks and contribute to broader management tasks.
17. Clear and confident communicator.
18. Ability to give formal presentations.
19. Ability to work independently and on own initiative.
20. Ability to act decisively and confidently.
21. Access to transport and willingness to travel to meet the needs of the post.
22. 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 working with relevant international data protection guidelines and requirements.
3. Experience using high density arrays, next generation sequencing and long read sequencing tools.
4. Experience working as part of international networks / consortia for multicentre projects.
5. Experience conducting epidemiology studies using national population-based datasets.
6. Experience running survival analysis and exploring patient / participant outcomes.
7. Experience developing a funding proposal.
8. Experience supervising students.
9. Proven ability to participate in or initiate collaborative research.
10. Evidence successfully managing resources.
11. Evidence of having co-ordinated a research project to successful completion.
12. Strong commitment to a career in Research.