

Candidate Information

Position: Research Fellow
School/Department: School of Medicine, Dentistry and Biomedical Sciences
Reference: 26/113458
Closing Date: Monday 20 July 2026
Salary: £41,519 to £49,536 per annum
Anticipated Interview Date: Thursday 13 August 2026
Duration: 12 months or until 30 June 2027, whichever is soonest

JOB PURPOSE:

The post-holder will be a member of a multi-disciplinary research group working on the NICOLA Study which is a large longitudinal study addressing the social and biological determinants of healthy ageing in Northern Ireland. The post will involve working predominantly with the NICOLA Operations Group, Data Manager and Project Officer, in the delivery and support of a portfolio of research that stem from the NICOLA data resource. The post holder will work with other members of the NICOLA team in assisting in Wave 3 data collection, linkage to other data sets, and assisting in the preparation of future grant applications and project outputs. The work will fit within the research strategies of the Centre for Public Health and there will be opportunity to develop the post holder's research skills and to co-author academic papers.

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Facilitation of continued research in NICOLA that fits with the overall delivery intent of the study.
2. To develop Standardised Operating Procedures for the ascertainment of key clinical events during follow-up through record linkage, including in the first instance: major cardiovascular events (coronary heart disease and stroke), cancer and dementia.
3. To assist in continued quality assurance & curation of the NICOLA data collection and preparation for ongoing public archiving.
4. To promote data harmonisation procedures to ensure NICOLA is harmonised where appropriate with other cohort studies.
5. Develop and contribute to research proposals and funding bids in collaboration with others to ensure continued longevity and growth of the study.
6. Proactively provide a conduit between NICOLAs research activities, collaborators and funders strengthening the presence of the NICOLA resource.
7. Engage in research methodologies that bring additional knowledge & benefits to the study increasing its multi-faceted uses.
8. To be responsible for undertaking a range of community engagement and dissemination, presenting study findings at a variety of user and policy maker and stakeholder forums
9. Working strategically with ageing & other relevant networks (local, national and international) as appropriate.
10. Assist in the generation of scientific manuscripts and reports, including the submissions using ResearchFish.
11. Direct, coach and develop research staff, where appropriate.
12. Present regular progress reports for the research team or to external audiences to disseminate and publicise research findings.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. Have a PhD (or will obtain within 3 months) in a relevant public health sciences discipline (such as biomedical science, epidemiology, medical statistics, psychology, health economics or in a discipline in a related area of professional practice).
2. First or upper second class honours degree or equivalent related to a public health science such as biomedical science, epidemiology, medical statistics, psychology, and health economics or in a discipline in a related area of professional practice.
3. Experience and skills relevant to this project e.g. experience of data analyses in epidemiological studies with relevance to public health, in analysis of longitudinal studies or in related areas with a focus at a population level.
4. Experience/interest in geroscience.
5. Demonstrated experience of research methods and techniques pertinent to epidemiology, longitudinal ageing studies and public health research using a range of qualitative and/or quantitative methodologies.

6. A track record of peer reviewed publications, conference presentation and proven ability to write to the standard required for international publications commensurate with career stage.
7. Experience of using data analysis packages such as SPSS, STATA or MPlus.
8. Proven ability to work in a multi-disciplinary environment as part of a research team.
9. Experience of undertaking a range of community engagement, outreach and dissemination activities.
10. Skills in managing and motivating staff.
11. Clear leadership skills.
12. Excellent IT skills and good knowledge of Microsoft Office packages.
13. Excellent time management and organisational skills with the ability to meet tight deadlines and work effectively under pressure.
14. Evidence of ability to deal competently with administrative tasks and contribute to broader management tasks.
15. Experience, achievement and growing reputation in the discipline.
16. Excellent written and verbal communication skills including presentation skills and the ability to communicate effectively with a wide range of stakeholders.
17. Proven ability to work collaboratively and independently.
18. Ability to act decisively and confidently.
19. Research interests that are sustainable and align with the aims of the NICOLA study.
20. Willingness to travel to meet the needs of the post.
21. Ability to work outside normal hours when necessary.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. MSc in Public Health, Research Methods or equivalent.
2. Knowledge of relevant public health systems and datasets.
3. Experience supervising research projects of undergraduate and post graduate students.
4. Recent experience of conducting research involving older adults.
5. Evidence of having co-ordinated a research project to successful completion.
6. Experience of public engagement activities and disseminating research to non-academic audiences.
7. Strong commitment to a career in research.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Informal Enquiries to c.sterling@qub.ac.uk