

Candidate Information

Position: GLAD-NI Research Fellow
School/Department: School of Psychology
Reference: 26/113629
Closing Date: Monday 5 October 2026
Salary: £42,972 - £51,270 per annum
Anticipated Interview Date: Friday 23 October 2026
Duration: Available for 30 months or until 31 March 2029 whichever is soonest

JOB PURPOSE:

We are seeking a highly motivated postdoctoral Research Associate in research data science and analysis to join Professor Cherie Armour's internationally recognised team at Queen's University Belfast on a 2.5-year appointment. This post will support the delivery of the Genetic Links to Anxiety and Depression – Mental Health Goals (GLAD-MHG) Omics Cohort, one of the UK's most ambitious precision psychiatry initiatives, hosted within the NIHR BioResource Centre Maudsley.

The GLAD-MHG Omics Cohort, supported by a prestigious award from the UK Government's Office for Life Sciences, builds on the existing NIHR BioResource GLAD Study (>38,000 participants). The new programme will recruit an additional 12,000 individuals with recurrent MDD, including 2,500 with longitudinal biosampling. High-quality blood samples will be collected for whole-genome sequencing, epigenetics, and biomarker profiling, alongside detailed digital phenotyping (wearables, speech AI) and NHS medical record linkage. All data will be securely integrated and curated within the DATAMIND Trusted Research Environment, ensuring national and international impact. This is a four-nation partnership and this PDRA post will be based in Belfast.

This role offers the opportunity to work with one of the world's largest, deeply characterised mental health cohorts, and will be integrated with the highly supportive research environment of the Stress, Trauma, and Related Conditions (STARC) research lab in the School of Psychology. The team will be applying cutting-edge multi-omic, AI, and data science approaches to address urgent challenges in major depression. The successful candidate based at QUB will be focused on the recruitment of NI based participants, the psychosocial survey management and data analyses and the exploration of data-linkage across sites/Trusts. They will have formal mentoring and gain experience at the interface of academia, healthcare, and industry, contributing to discoveries that shape the future of our understanding of Major Depressive Disorder and comorbidities.

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Day to day responsibility for the running of the Belfast site of GLAD-MHG.
2. Regular liaison with the PI concerning updates on project progress; flagging up problems and suggesting solutions as they arise.
3. Be the key liaison point for all internal and external collaborators and stakeholders as directed by the project and by the PI.
4. Oversee ethical approval submissions for the Belfast site.
5. Identify, develop, and implement patient recruitment strategies alongside a range of stakeholders (e.g., Healthcare, Industry, Marketing).
6. Explain GLAD-MHG to potential participants with clarity and answer queries to encourage participation whilst being mindful that participation is voluntary.
7. Ensure the best possible response rates for research projects within the designated timeframe.
8. Be involved in the collection of data and working flexibly based on project demands.
9. Plan and oversee the data management including cleaning and validation of questionnaire/interview data as directed by the PI.
10. Be involved in the analysis and writing up of academic products from projects, including project reports and submissions to peer-review journals.
11. Prepare presentations and attend and present at relevant meetings and seminars as required.

12. Where appropriate to the project, set up, screen, clean and oversee the management of administrative, statistical, and any qualitative databases (e.g., SPSS, NVIVO).
13. Assist the PI in identifying and writing new study protocols / funding applications to ensure a stream of new projects.
14. Travel in-line with the requirements of the post.
15. Carry out routine administrative tasks to ensure that the project is completed on time and within budget. These might include managing project diaries, organisation of collaborator / stakeholder meetings and associated documentation, financial management, and risk assessment of research activities.
16. Read academic papers, journals and textbooks to keep abreast of developments in own specialism and related disciplines.
17. Any other duties appropriate to the grade and nature of the post.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. Honours Degree in Psychology or related discipline.
2. A PhD in Psychology, Epidemiology, Statistics or related discipline.
3. At least 3 years relevant research experience.
4. Experience of having worked with multidisciplinary teams (e.g., Medicine & Health Sciences) involved in research.
5. Evidence of expertise in research techniques and analyses.
6. Understanding of issues with data confidentiality/security/data sharing/data linkage.
7. Project management experience preferably in an academic setting.
8. Previous experience of presenting research nationally and/or internationally.
9. A published peer reviewed publication record commensurate with career stage.
10. Ability to manage a research project.
11. Evidence of recruiting participants to research studies.
12. Evidence of good organisational and administrative skills.
13. Experience of managing research data such as data entry, data cleaning and producing datasets.
14. Experience of engaging with key stakeholders through advisory panels and/or PPI groups.
15. Evidence of ability to engage and communicate effectively with a broad range of stakeholders (e.g., in academic, statutory and non-statutory sectors).
16. Ability to communicate complex information clearly.
17. Ability to assess and organise resources.
18. Willingness to travel in line with the requirements of the post.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. MSc related to Clinical Psychology or Mental Health.
2. Evidence of authorship of research reports from funded research projects.
3. Experience of designing and collecting quantitative survey data, including using online survey software such as Qualtrics.
4. Experience of using the statistical packages of SPSS/R/STATA and/or MPlus.
5. Evidence of expertise in advanced statistical modelling techniques.
6. Experience of supporting/ teaching students at undergraduate/ postgraduate level.
7. Experience of managing contract research staff.
8. Supervision of PhD researchers.
9. Experience of delivering presentations to a variety of audiences.