

Candidate Information

Position: Senior Research Fellow, Administrative Data Research Centre NI
School/Department: School of Medicine, Dentistry and Biomedical Sciences
Reference: 26/113640
Closing Date: Monday 28 September 2026
Salary: £52,802 - £64,890 per annum.
Anticipated Interview Date: Monday 19 October 2026
Duration: 55 months

JOB PURPOSE:

This senior research fellow post, running until 31st March 2031, is funded by the Administrative Data Research Centre Northern Ireland (ADRC NI) funded research programme, led by Dr Aideen Maguire (Director), which is part of Administrative Data Research UK (ADR UK), a partnership transforming the way researchers access the UK's wealth of public sector data, to enable better informed policy decisions that improve people's lives. The applicant will take the lead on projects related to ADRC NI's recently recommissioned programme which is due to run until 31 March 2031, with a specific focus on (a) assist the management of administrative data research in Northern Ireland's main Trusted Research Environments, and (b) explore new data sets and novel linkages to support investigation of patterns and relationships between social, structural and health-related outcomes for vulnerable and underserved groups.

The postholder will work with a high degree of independence while operating under the strategic guidance of the ADRC NI leadership team. The applicant will take the lead on coproduced research with local stakeholders in NI, such as policy makers, practitioners and people with lived experience, to provide high quality and impactful evidence to improve knowledge, policymaking and public service delivery. They will also contribute to the strategic development of the ADRC NI and advance capacity in administrative data research in NI.

MAJOR DUTIES:

Teaching:

1. Contribute to the work of the School through limited teaching and associated tasks within own research specialism.

Research:

1. Lead on a programme of codeveloped research with the ADRC NI, including supervision of technical aspects of work of other research staff and PhD students, under appropriate guidance and mentorship of academic colleagues.
2. Maintain a high quality publication record by continuing to produce, publish and present work at conferences.
3. Hold and maintain accredited researcher status.
4. Lead on the preparation of research ready datasets from linked administrative data and routinely collected health and social care data.
5. Liaise with appropriate data custodians to develop new data assets for administrative data research.
6. Lead on the development of appropriate resources for knowledge transfer, including meta-data, data dictionaries, and data resource profiles, and shareable code for repositories.
7. Provide expert advice to other staff and students on appropriate statistical analysis approaches and data management plans.
8. Prepare, as necessary, applications for research data access via Northern Ireland Trusted Research Environments (TREs), including appropriate ethical and governance approval.
9. Liaise with the ADRC NI Professional Services Team, including the timely completion of quarterly reports for the funder.
10. Carry out administrative tasks associated with effective research project management to ensure that work tasks are completed on time and within budget (including the coordination of project meetings and documentation and risk assessment).
11. Lead on the preparation of material for publication in national and international journals and presentations at international conferences.
12. Keep abreast of developments in own specialism and related disciplines.

13. Develop and contribute to research proposals aligned to ADRC NI research portfolio and funding bids in collaboration with others to ensure continued growth of the overall School's research profile.
14. Maintain a personal research plan aligned to ADRC NI by, managing and undertaking research activities in accordance with specific project plan.
15. Develop research activities with potential for economic, societal or health impact.
16. Develop and maintain links with colleagues in national and international institutions, and with ADR UK counterparts across England, Scotland and Wales as appropriate.
17. Supervise PhD students during their research programmes and other students undertaking project/dissertation work as appropriate to the discipline.
18. Direct, mentor and develop research staff, where appropriate.
19. Ensure that research projects and detailed objectives are completed on time and within budget.

Administration/Contribution to the Community:

1. Lead on the preparation of other reports for publication on the ADR NI website, including Data Insights, Reports, and Policy Briefs, to 'translate' data-driven research into accessible evidence for policymaking.
2. Contribute to knowledge exchange activities undertaken in partnership with key stakeholders to maximise the impact and reach of research and findings.
3. Contribute to training and capacity building including ADRC NI's Community of Practice.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. First or Upper Second Class Honours Degree in a relevant discipline.
2. A PhD in a relevant discipline and with a substantial component of quantitative administrative data research.
3. Specific, recent post-doctoral research experience and skills relevant to the work of ADRC NI (e.g. population-based research or epidemiological research focused on population mental health).
4. Substantial, recent, relevant experience working with complex linked administrative data, and routinely collected health and social care data, ideally within the Northern Ireland context.
5. Substantial, recent, relevant experience of impactful coproduced administrative data research.
6. A demonstrable interest and track record of research in the area of mental health in vulnerable and underserved groups, particularly early life social/structural determinants of mental health, and impact of poor mental health on health-related behaviours such as uptake of cancer screening.
7. Substantial, recent, relevant experience of using statistical packages such as STATA or R to conduct reproducible research.
8. Experience of working in a Trusted Research Environment (TRE), ideally in the Northern Ireland context, and mentorship of other staff and students to work within the Five Safes Framework for administrative data research.
9. Experience of successful research ethics and / or governance approvals.
10. A high academic standing with a growing reputation in research within subject specialism.
11. A strong publication record, as first author, in peer reviewed/refereed journals that are REF returnable.
12. Evidence of international conference presentation.
13. Experience of developing appropriate resources for knowledge transfer, such as meta-data, data dictionaries, and data resource profiles, and shareable code for repositories.
14. Proven ability in administrative data research project management, to include, delivering research outcomes, and working in a multi-disciplinary environment as part of a research team.
15. Ability to devise, advise on and manage research programmes effectively on time and target.
16. Proven ability to lead on co-produced research.
17. Training or certification in methods pertaining to administrative data research.
18. Excellent IT skills e.g. Microsoft Office suite.
19. Excellent organisational and leadership skills.
20. Excellent inter-personal skills.
21. Excellent oral and written communication skills.
22. Evidence of ability to write reports and meet deadlines.
23. Evidence of ability to deal competently with administrative tasks and contribute to broader management tasks.
24. Clear and confident communicator.
25. Ability to give formal presentations.
26. Ability to work independently and on own initiative.
27. Ability to act decisively and confidently.

28. Ability to supervise work of others in research team.
29. Ability and willingness to travel to meet the needs of the post.
30. Ability to work flexibly as required within the remit of the post.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. Master's degree and / or relevant professional qualification.
2. Accredited researcher status.
3. Experience supervising undergraduate or postgraduate taught students.
4. Experience training staff or students in area of specific expertise.
5. Experience of contributing to a funding proposal.
6. Research interests that are sustainable within the School.
7. Evidence of invited presentations at a national and/or international events.
8. Substantial, recent, relevant experience in managing resources.
9. Evidence of having co-ordinated a research project to successful completion.
10. Experience of disseminating research to lay audiences.
11. Ability to facilitate workshops with underserved groups.
12. Strong commitment to a career in administrative data research.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The ADRC NI recommissioned programme includes six work packages which will be delivered through partnership between Queen's University Belfast, Ulster University, and the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency. The research programme reflects a mixture of both (i) making better use of existing data sources and (ii) forging new, ambitious data linkage projects with new data providers.

The focus area of research for the post holder: Under the strategic guidance of the ADRC NI leadership team, the postholder will lead on a range of research across two key work packages in the 2026-2031 ADRC NI investment – “Underserved Groups” and “Enhancing Health Data”. There will be a specific focus on predictors and outcomes for vulnerable and underserved groups in relation to physical health (including but not limited to cancer screening and stage of diagnosis) and mental health (including but not limited to psychotropic medications and self-harm/suicide ideation).

Informal enquiries can be directed to: Lisa Kent - l.kent@qub.ac.uk.