



Job Title: Qualitative Research Associate

Grade: 7

Salary: £39,105 to £45,163 per annum, pro-rata if part-time

Department: Diabetes Research Centre

Hours/Contract: Full-time, or job share considered, fixed term contract until 31 January 2026

Job Family: Teaching and Research

Reference: 11339

Role Purpose

To contribute to a programme of work which aims to address health inequalities and improve health outcomes in people with multiple long term conditions (MLTC) as part of the Applied Research Collaboration (ARC) East Midlands, based at the Leicester Diabetes Centre.

The post-holder will lead on the delivery of qualitative research with the support from the wider research team. To work collaboratively and independently as part of a research team to achieve defined milestones and produce high quality research as part of a wider programme.

To contribute to a research study funded by an NIHR Research for Patient Benefit grant, looking at the impact of ethnicity and other socio-demographic characteristics on people presenting with breathlessness and other common symptoms associated with heart valve disease. This research aims to explore stakeholders' views and experiences of presentation, health-seeking behaviours, referral and treatment (patient journey) for common symptoms such as breathlessness.

The post-holder will be supervised by Dr Anvesha Singh (Associate Professor in Cardiology) and Dr Riya Patel (Research Fellow in Ethnicity and Health). They will work collaboratively and independently as part of a research team to achieve defined milestones and produce high quality research as part of a wider project.

Main Duties and Responsibilities

Research

- To support planning and design of qualitative elements of the research project, taking responsibility for some element(s) of the planned research.
- To lead in the collection, evaluation and interpretation of the research data, and work autonomously to attain project milestones.
- To contribute to the development of the choice of techniques, critiques, approaches, models and methods.
- To support qualitative and systematic review elements of other projects within the wider programme.
- To collect qualitative data for through focus group sessions and in-depth interviews, ensuring these are completed to a high standard.
- To contribute to writing up the qualitative research findings for dissemination in journal articles, including integrating them into wider project reports as appropriate and as separate papers for submission to high quality health and social science journals.





- To represent the research group by disseminating results/findings at national and international conferences and broader community.
- To develop and carry out a plan to extend an area of personal research, or contribute as a team member to the development of a broader programme, this may include contributing to the writing of research bids/grants.
- With the support of colleagues, identify opportunities to apply for fellowships and/or further project grants.
- To provide guidance to other staff and students (involved in the research programme).
- To actively seek opportunities to carry out multi-disciplinary research with other research groups at the University or stakeholders external to the University, with the approval of the Principal Investigator (PI).

Professional Development

- Duties and opportunities to engage in work that support your own professional development.

Impact and Knowledge Exchange

- Network and contribute to the maintaining and furthering of the wider research programme and research area.
- To contribute to industry collaborations.
- To consult effectively on own specialism directly with people external to the University.
- To engage positively and pro-actively in research impact.

Leadership and Citizenship

- Guidance to other team members both research staff and students.
- Pro-actively build networks and collaborations.
- Providing mentoring and coaching to Early Career Researchers and research students.

Internal and External Relationships

- Regular meetings with members of the programme research group.
- Meeting members of the department for critical discussion of the research and exchange of new ideas and approaches that might benefit the research.
- Liaison with external collaborators (if needed).

Planning and Organising

You will be required to effectively manage your time to plan your research activity and to deliver on the priorities of the project:

- Prioritise tasks within agreed work schedules;





- Plan for specific aspects of research incorporating issues such as deadlines, project milestones and overall research aims
- Adapt daily and weekly plans to accommodate new developments and be flexible to the changing priorities of the research project

Qualifications, Knowledge and Experience

Essential

- PhD or equivalent in appropriate discipline or the equivalent professional qualification and experience *
- Evidence of a contribution to peer-reviewed journal papers or equivalent in the areas of ethnicity and health, public health, qualitative research*
- Evidence of proven analytical problem solving capability *
- Expertise in relevant approaches/models and analytical techniques and ability to develop new ones where required.

Skills, Abilities and Competencies

Essential

- Willingness and ability to work with internal and external stakeholders*
- Evidence of continued development of subject expertise*
- Excellent communication skills – written and verbal evidenced by the ability to communicate complex information *
- Evidence of working effectively as part of a team and the ability to work independently *
- Working towards independence and ability to be involved in collaborative research
- Evidence and commitment to Continuous Professional Development (CPD) for yourself, and encourage commitment to learn and develop in others

Desirable

- Budget management skills

****Criteria to be used in shortlisting candidates for interview***

Reason for Fixed Term Contract

The reason for the fixed term contract is stated in section 1.9 in the summary of contractual terms in your contract of employment.

Criminal Declaration

If you become an employee, you must inform your manager immediately, in writing, if you are the subject of any current or future police investigations/legal proceedings, which could result in a criminal offence, conviction, caution, bind-over or charges, or warnings.





Supporting University Activities

As a University of Leicester citizen, you are expected to support key university activities such as clearing, graduation ceremonies, student registration and recruitment open days. We expect all staff as citizens to work flexibly across the University if required.

University Values

Inclusive - We are diverse in our makeup and united in ambition. Our diversity is our strength and makes our community stronger.

Inspiring - We are passionate about inspiring individuals to succeed and realise their ambitions. We challenge our community to think differently, to get involved, and to constantly embrace new ideas.

Impactful - As Citizens of Change we will generate new ideas which deliver impact and empower our community

Equity and Diversity

We believe that equity, diversity and inclusion is integral to a successful modern workplace. By developing and implementing policies and systems that challenge stereotypes across all aspects of our work, we have a culture that recognises and values the diverse contributions of our staff which benefits everyone. Our strong values of inclusivity and equity support our efforts to attract a diverse range of high quality staff and students, and identify our University as a progressive and innovative workplace that mainstreams equity, diversity and inclusion.

