

Job Description

Position Details

Faculty/Directorate	Science & Engineering
School/Department	Sport and Exercise Sciences
Team	-
Job Title	Research Associate
Grade	8
Hours of Work	Full time
Contract Duration (Perm/Fixed Term)	Fixed term – 36 months
Reports To	Professor Rachel Cooper

Principal Accountabilities

This position is suitable for an enthusiastic and highly motivated Postdoctoral Research Associate with experience of qualitative research.

The successful applicant will become a key member of the new UKRI/NIHR funded **ADMISSION Research Collaborative** (www.admissioncollab.org) working closely with Professor Rachel Cooper at Manchester Metropolitan University and Professor Thomas Scharf, Professor Avan Aihie Sayer, Professor Sian Robinson and Professor Miles Witham at Newcastle University.

ADMISSION aims to *transform understanding of multiple long-term conditions in hospital patients*. It will harness the power of 'big data' from routinely collected hospital, primary and social care records, and large population-based studies including UK Biobank, using cutting-edge data science to identify clusters of long-term conditions in hospital patients, and to understand their causes and consequences. To complement quantitative analyses, we plan to conduct focused qualitative work involving in-depth interviews with a purposive sample of people with multiple long-term conditions who have recent experience of hospitalisation.

Through this work, ADMISSION will lay the foundations for new approaches to the recognition and treatment of multimorbidity in hospital and inform the design of future care, with potential to improve health outcomes for the millions of patients with multimorbidity admitted to hospital each year.

The successful candidate will take a lead role in the design, delivery and writing up of the qualitative components of Work Packages 3 and 4 of ADMISSION – understanding how inequalities relate to

clusters of long-term conditions, and investigating the lived experience of the healthcare journeys of people with multiple long-term conditions before, during and after hospital admission.

Key Tasks

Research Activities

Work with the ADMISSION investigators and public co-applicants to design and undertake interviews that allow us to better understand: (i) life course and biographical influences on inequalities in multiple long-term conditions; and (ii) the lived experience of patients with multiple long-term conditions during hospital care. This will involve developing interview topic guides, designing a sampling frame to recruit interviewees, completing necessary pilot work, and conducting in-depth interviews.

Transcribe and clean interview data, develop a framework for coding data, and undertake thematic analysis orientated on illuminating the role of intersecting inequalities on health care outcomes and pathways.

Undertake comprehensive reviews of relevant literature.

Prepare research manuscripts for submission to high quality journals.

Plan and prioritise own work and resources to achieve agreed research objectives.

Undertake quality research and detailed analysis, and present findings to appropriate internal and external groups, such as ADMISSION's project management and patient advisory groups, research forums, conferences, or seminars, as required.

Use initiative and judgement to develop appropriate techniques in order to facilitate research work and resolve problems affecting the achievement of objectives and deadlines.

Engage in scholarly activities conducive to a long-term successful academic career that will support and enhance the research culture within the department.

Liaison and Networking

Play an active and supportive role in the ADMISSION project, liaising with project partners and key stakeholders across the Research Collaborative.

Disseminate findings of research through journals, conferences, and seminars, in order to further the ADMISSION Research Collaborative and institution's standings in the HE and research community.

Participate in the development of internal and external partnerships and networks in order to disseminate information, share best practice, generate income, establish opportunities for collaborative work, and to enhance the reputation of the University and ADMISSION Research Collaborative.

Respond to enquiries and requests for information from relevant stakeholders, when required.

Collaborate with senior academic staff to organise, manage and carry out appropriate research, and actively contribute to the longer term planning and direction of future projects.

Actively promote quality research and enhance the reputation of the ADMISSION research collaborative and University within the research community.

Proactively and effectively engage with quality assurance procedures to ensure that University standards are upheld.

Teamworking

Actively participate as a member of the research team, providing mutual support to colleagues to achieve successful completion of projects.

Interact with colleagues in the ADMISSION research collaborative across all five partner institutions and all five work packages (Data, Clustering of conditions, Inequalities, Pathways of Care, and Mechanisms), and with colleagues in related MRC-funded programmes to share best practice and new methods.

Offer support to other researchers in research methodology and areas of expertise.

Attend Faculty, Department and Programme meetings/boards as appropriate and proactively contribute to decision making.

Special Features

This project will involve close collaborative working with other ADMISSION researchers based at partner organisations, in particular, Newcastle University.

Miscellaneous

You have a legal duty, so far as is reasonably practicable, to ensure that you do not endanger yourself or anyone else by your acts or omissions. In addition, you must cooperate with the University on health and safety matters and must not interfere or misuse anything provided for health, safety and welfare purposes.

You are responsible for applying the University's Equal Opportunities Policy in your own area of responsibility and in your general conduct.

You are expected to co-operate with the PDR process, engaging in the setting of objectives in order to assist in the monitoring of performance and the development of the individual.

Such other relevant duties commensurate with the grade of the post as may be assigned by the Manager in agreement with you. Such agreement should not be unreasonably withheld.

You may be required to undertake a specific Health & Safety role, commensurate with your grade, to support the University in meeting its statutory Health & Safety obligations. This could include acting as a DSE Assessor, First Aider, Fire Marshall or Departmental Safety Co-ordinator. The allocation of such roles will be subject to the provision of appropriate training and assessment of competence.

You may, with reasonable notice, be required to work at any of the Manchester Metropolitan University sites.

You have the responsibility to engage with the University's commitment to Environmental Sustainability in order to reduce its waste, energy consumption and carbon footprint.

You have the responsibility to engage with the University's commitment to delivering value for money services that optimise the use of resources and therefore should consider this when undertaking all duties and aspects of your role.

Review

This is a description of the job at the time of issue. It is the University's practice periodically to review and update job descriptions to ensure that they accurately reflect the current nature of the job and requirements of the University and to incorporate reasonable changes where required, in consultation with the jobholder.

Person Specification

In order to be shortlisted you must demonstrate that you meet all the essential criteria and as many of the desirable criteria as possible. Where we have a large number of applications that meet all of the essential criteria, we will then use the desirable criteria to produce the shortlist.



All disabled candidates who meet the minimum essential criteria will be included on the shortlist.

Selection Criteria

Attributes		Item	Relevant Criteria	Essential/ Desirable
1	Skills & Abilities	1.1	Ability to develop and deliver high quality research	E
		1.2	Ability to build relationships and establish networks with internal and external contacts.	E
		1.3	Excellent written and verbal communication skills	E
		1.4	Excellent interpersonal and team working skills	E
		1.5	Ability to prioritise, manage workload and meet deadlines	E
		1.6	Ability to work flexibly and independently as part of a multidisciplinary team	E
2	General & Specialist Knowledge	2.1	Experience in the design, conduct and analysis of qualitative research	E
		2.2	Ability to use relevant software packages for the analysis of interview data	E
		2.3	Experience of undertaking comprehensive literature reviews including the synthesis and critical appraisal of existing research evidence	E
		2.4	Knowledge of key literature on multiple long-term conditions and/or inequalities in health	D
		2.5	Knowledge of quantitative research techniques	D
3	Education & Training	3.1	PhD (or close to completion) in a relevant subject such as health, psychology, sociology, gerontology, or public health sciences.	E

4	Relevant Experience	4.1	Experience in the field of qualitative research, which should have included:	
			• making a demonstrable, independent contribution to projects	E
			• using initiative, creativity and judgement to develop appropriate approaches to research	E
			• synthesising complex data from different sources and communicating findings via written reports	E
			• presenting at national and/or international research meetings	E
			• lead writing peer-reviewed scientific articles	E
			• securing ethical approvals	D
Date of Revision		September 2021		