Research Fellow
School of Medicine, Medical Sciences and Nutrition
*Epidemiology Group*

Closing date: 14 February 2020
Interview date: To Be Confirmed
Reference number: IHS072R
Introduction

The Epidemiology Group, within the School of Medicine, Medical Sciences and Nutrition, aims:

- To determine the epidemiology of specific clinical conditions, with a focus on modifiable risk factors; and
- To use this information to inform the design of clinical trials of management and public health interventions with a goal of improving outcomes for patients and the public.

There are several research programmes, the largest of which is the programme on Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Disease. Within this, we are part of the Versus Arthritis/MRC Centre for Musculoskeletal Health and Work (CMHW)

We are seeking a Research Fellow to join our team and to work on the programme of research within CMHW.
Job description

Main purpose of the role:
The Research Fellow will be responsible for delivering a programme of work as part of a large research award investigating the how to improve work outcomes for persons with musculoskeletal disorders.

Key responsibilities:

Research Fellow
The successful candidate will have a PhD in Epidemiology or a closely related area. They will be required to work on a number of studies investigating outcome (including occupational outcomes) in patients with a variety of musculoskeletal conditions (including inflammatory arthritis and back pain). The work will involve analysing newly collected data as well as utilising various secondary datasets. They will also be involved in grant applications. There will be three major areas of work:

- Explore the impact of living in remote and rural settings on disease activity and response to treatment
- Investigate the role of public health interventions for back pain (alongside routine care)
- Plan and seek for funds for an implementation study of a programme to support people with musculoskeletal disorders remain in work
- They will also be involved in the supervision and conduct of other related projects. This post will involve national and international travel commitments.

At a glance

Salary:
Grade 6 (£33,797 - £35,844 per annum)

Hours of work:
Full-Time (37.5 hours per week)

Contract type:
Project Limited (4 years)
Candidate background

The Epidemiology Group (www.abdn.ac.uk/epidemiology) is looking to appoint a Postdoctoral Research Fellow to work in the Versus Arthritis/Medical Research Council Centre of Excellence for Musculoskeletal Health and Work: https://www.mrc.soton.ac.uk/cmhw

Terms of appointment

Salary will be at the appropriate point on the Grade 6 salary scale and negotiable with placement according to qualifications and experience.

Any appointment will be made subject to satisfactory references and a 12 month probation period.

For further information on various staff benefits and policies please visit www.abdn.ac.uk/staffnet/working-here

This post does not meet the minimum requirements as issued by UK Visas & Immigration (UKVI) to qualify for an employer-sponsored visa. We are therefore unable to consider applications from candidates for this post who require sponsorship to work in the UK.
# Person specification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education/Qualifications</th>
<th>Essential</th>
<th>Desirable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Academic, technical and professional education and training | • PhD in Epidemiology or a related discipline.  
• Evidence of excellence in academic track record. | • Good research practice certificate. |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Work and Other relevant experience (including training)</th>
<th>Essential</th>
<th>Desirable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| eg Specialist knowledge, levels of experience, supervisory experience, research | • Experience in applied health research. | • Demonstrable track record (abstracts / publications) in a relevant area.  
• Experience in rheumatic and musculoskeletal research.  
• Experience of grant applications. |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Personal qualities and abilities</th>
<th>Essential</th>
<th>Desirable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| eg initiative, leadership, ability to work on own or with others, communication skills | • Ability to work on own initiative, or as part of a team.  
• Excellent written / oral communication skills.  
• Supervisory experience (project assistants / research students). | • Interest and experience in public engagement. |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Other</th>
<th>Essential</th>
<th>Desirable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>eg special circumstances (if any) appropriate to the role such as unsocial hours, travelling, Gaelic language requirements etc.</td>
<td>• Flexibility of working hours to accommodate national and international travel.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The University

Founded in 1495, Aberdeen is Scotland’s third oldest University and the fifth oldest in the UK. Ranked within the world top 160 in the Times Higher Education Rankings 2019 and named Scottish University of the Year in the Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2019. Aberdeen is ‘open to all and dedicated to the pursuit of truth in the service of others’.

Aberdeen is a broad based, research intensive University, which puts students at the head of everything it does. It has significant academic strengths and potential across a wide variety of disciplines. Outstanding in a wide range of discipline areas, Aberdeen has also been credited for its international reach and its commercialisation of research ideas into spin out companies.

The University has over 14,000 matriculated students and 3,600 staff representing 130 nationalities. We encourage bold thinking, creativity and innovation and we nurture ambition with many opportunities for professional and personal development in an inclusive learning environment which challenges, inspires and helps every individual to reach their full potential.

The University combines a distinguished heritage with a forward looking attitude. In the past few years, the University has encouraged creativity in its academic staff, broken new ground with an innovative curriculum, and developed state-of-the-art facilities including the new Sir Duncan Rice Library and the Aberdeen Sports Village and Aquatics Centre. In looking to the future, the University seeks to enhance its reputation as one of the world’s leading Universities by moving forward with ever more ground breaking research; ensuring students have an intellectual and social experience second to none; and capitalising upon the dual role as one of the major institutions of the north and as a cornerstone of regional economic and cultural life.
The School (https://www.abdn.ac.uk/smmsn/index.php) encompasses all of the disciplines that underpin today's medicine, including biomedical sciences, health sciences, nutrition and medical, medical science and dental education and these are organised into five Institutes. The largest school in the University, the SMMSN has five Institutes: the Institute of Medical Sciences (IMS), the Institute of Applied Health Sciences (IAHS), the Rowett Institute, the Institute of Education in Medical and Dental Sciences (IEMDS) and the Institute of Dentistry, comprising all of our undergraduate and postgraduate programmes and our own graduate entry Dental School.

Staff are line managed and research opportunities are supported through our institutes which work together in an integrated and coordinated way to deliver research and teaching across the School, details of which can be found on their websites as below.

- The Institute of Applied Health Sciences https://www.abdn.ac.uk/iahs/
- The Institute of Medical Sciences http://www.abdn.ac.uk/ims/
- The Rowett Institute http://www.abdn.ac.uk/rowett/
- The Institute of Education in Medical and Dental Sciences https://www.abdn.ac.uk/iemds/
- The Institute of Dentistry https://www.abdn.ac.uk/dental/

Within the IMS, our scientists are working towards the creation of effective therapies for patients with a range of debilitating and life-threatening conditions. Current research areas include: arthritis and musculoskeletal medicine; cell developmental and cancer biology; immunity, infection and inflammation; metabolic and cardiovascular health; microbiology and translational neuroscience.

Within the IAHS, research is focused on improving health and health care delivery. It is home to a multidisciplinary grouping of around 100 university academic staff who conduct population and clinically-orientated health research and hosts the Health Services Research Unit (HSRU) and Health Economics Research Unit (HERU), both funded by the Chief Scientist's Office (CSO) of the Scottish Government.

As well as being the organisational home to the teaching scholarship staff and responsible for oversight of the UG and PGT programmes offered by the School, the IEMDS promotes and supports excellence in medical education through research and development, with a focus on conceptually and theoretically robust research and development which has strong potential for reaching international recognition.

The Dental Institute runs an undergraduate BDS programme and a growing suite of masters programmes for professional development.

We have a number of specialist Centres representing areas of particular research strength and capacity within the School all of which are willing to support colleagues on projects in their areas. More information is available at the following websites.

- The Centre for Healthcare Education Research and Innovation (https://www.abdn.ac.uk/cheri/index.php)
- The Centre for Health Data Science (https://www.abdn.ac.uk/achds/)
- The Aberdeen Cardiovascular & Diabetes Centre (https://www.abdn.ac.uk/acdc/)
- and
- The Aberdeen Centre for Arthritis and Musculoskeletal Health (https://www.abdn.ac.uk/acamh/)
The School is home to over 800 staff and 2000fte students. It is located on the Foresterhill site, shared with our main clinical partner, NHS Grampian, with whom we work in close collaboration at primary and secondary care levels. This is one of the largest integrated healthcare delivery, training and research sites in Europe and has rich assets including state-of-the-art academic (research and teaching) and clinical buildings. Excellent infrastructure is also provided through core facilities for biomedical science including flow cytometry, proteomics, microscopy and genome sequencing, support for data health science projects and clinical trials.

The last major academic capital development was the opening of the Rowett Institute, occupied in March 2016, whose staff undertakes nutrition research to help improve people’s lives through the prevention of ill-health and disease. Their new £40M building has provided the University of Aberdeen with a facility with unique capabilities for human nutrition and metabolic research. Currently, the NHSG is carrying out an exciting £164 million building development creating The Baird Family Hospital and The Aberdeen and North Centre for Haematology, Oncology and Radiotherapy (ANCHOR) Centre Project, scheduled for completion in 2021.
The city and the region

Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire

With a population of approximately 230,000, the city stands between the Rivers Dee and Don. This historic city has many architectural splendours and the use of its sparkling local granite has earned Aberdeen the name of the Silver City. Recognised as the oil capital of Europe, Aberdeen nevertheless retains its old-fashioned charm and character making it an attractive place in which to live.

Aberdeen enjoys excellent communication services with other European cities - e.g. flying time to London is just over one hour with regular daily flights. There are direct air links to London (City, Gatwick, Heathrow, and Luton), Manchester, Birmingham, Leeds, Southampton, Belfast and East Midlands within the U.K. There are also flights to international hub airports: Amsterdam (Schiphol), and Paris (Charles De-Gaulle) as well as flights to other European destinations. http://www.aberdeenairport.com Road and rail links are also well developed.

The Grampian Region which took its name from the Grampian Mountains has a population of approximately 545,000. It is made up of five districts – Aberdeen, Banff & Buchan, Gordon, Kincardine & Deeside and Moray. The city and the surrounding countryside provide a variety of urban, sea-side and country pursuits. Aberdeen has first class amenities including His Majesty's Theatre, Music Hall, Art Gallery, the Aberdeen Exhibition Centre, Museums, and Beach Leisure centre. Within a short time, beach pursuits, equine activities, salmon, trout and sea fishing, hill-walking, mountaineering, golf, sailing, surfing and windsurfing can be reached. The city and the surrounding countryside are repeatedly given high ratings for quality of life in surveys.

Aberdeenshire is one of Scotland’s most appealing regions. Royal Deeside and the Cairngorms National Park are within easy access of the city, and there are a variety of towns and villages scattered along the coastline.

Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire cater for a wide range of tastes in sporting and cultural activities.

To find out more about Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire go to www.visitabdn.com
Equality & Diversity

The School of Medicine, Medical Sciences and Nutrition welcomes a diverse working environment and recognises the many benefits this can bring. The School is keen to receive applications from individuals from across all of the equality protected characteristics (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation).

The University supports opportunities for flexible working for a range of reasons and has policies in place to facilitate this. The policies can be found here:

https://www.abdn.ac.uk/staffnet/working-here/flexible-working--5607.php

The University’s commitment to gender equality has been recognised through the achievement of an Athena SWAN Bronze award. The University is also a Stonewall Diversity Champion to further LGBT+ equality.

The University is signed up to Advance HE’s Race Equality Charter, affirming the University’s commitment to the charter’s aim of improving the representation, progression and success of minority ethnic staff and students within higher education.

Candidates who are British Sign Language (BSL) user can contact us directly by using contact SCOTLAND-BSL

The University is delighted to be accredited as a Disability Confident employer Committed and strives to ensure that disabled staff and students have the opportunity to work and study in an inclusive, accessible and supportive environment.

https://www.abdn.ac.uk/staffnet/governance/equality-and-diversity-277.php

How to apply

Online application forms are available at www.abdn.ac.uk/jobs

The closing date for receipt of applications is 14 February 2020

Should you wish to make an informal enquiry please contact:

Professor Gary Macfarlane, Clinical Chair in Epidemiology
01224 437143
epidemiology@abdn.ac.uk

Please do not send application forms or CVs to Professor Macfarlane.

Please quote reference number IHS072R on all correspondence