RESEARCH FELLOW (Part Time)

Centre for Rural Health, Inverness; School of Medicine, Medical Sciences and Nutrition

Closing date: 05 July 2021
Interview date: To Be Confirmed
Reference number: IHS102R
Applications are invited for a researcher to work in the Centre for Rural Health (CRH), based in Inverness, on a 15-month fixed term contract which is available from 1 September 2021.

CRH is based in the Centre for Health Science on the Raigmore Hospital campus and hosts a range of research studies including two existing substantial randomised trials. CRH has three research themes:

- Development & evaluation of complex interventions
- Use of technology
- Child health and development

We have acquired an international reputation for academic rigour in these fields through substantial grant funding, postgraduate studentships and excellent publications.
MAIN PURPOSE OF THE ROLE:

The successful applicant will coordinate the Mellow Babies trial, funded by the prestigious National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Public Health Research programme.

This project aims to assess the effectiveness of the Mellow Babies (MB) programme in promoting maternal mental health and in improving social and emotional wellbeing among children aged 6-18 months old.

This role (90% full time) involves the overall coordination of the trial, including overseeing recruitment (performed by NHS Highland research nurses), ensuring effective follow-up data collection (performed by University of Aberdeen research assistants) and coordinating the collection of high quality process data. The successful applicant will also liaise with the clinical trials unit (CHaRT: the Centre for Healthcare Randomised Trials), with the Health Economics Unit at Newcastle University, with co-investigators from five Universities and from service providers, with the independent Trial Steering Committee and with the independent Data Monitoring Committee.

Setting: Highland region of Scotland, including a range of urban, rural, affluent and deprived communities.

Participants will be referred by health visitors, social workers, paediatricians and GPs. Mothers scoring above threshold on the Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (HADS) when their child is 6 - 18 months old will be invited to participate.

We aim to recruit 212 families to ensure evaluable data on 170. If fewer than 40 participants are recruited by month 8, the study will be stopped (stop/go point) and contracts of employment will not be continued. The main outcome measures will involve maternal mental health, child mental development and the quality of parent-child interaction.

Towards the end of the trial, the successful applicant could expect to lead or co-author several high-impact publications.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Coordinate and manage the clinical trial, working closely with NHS research nurses and the UoA trial research assistants
- Liaising with referrers and referring agencies
- Liaise with the clinical trials unit (CHaRT: the Centre for Healthcare Randomised Trials), with the Health Economics Unit at Newcastle University, with co-investigators from five Universities and from service providers,
- Produce regular trial progress reports for the co-investigators, independent Trial Steering Committee and the independent Data Monitoring Committee.
- Follow procedures to satisfy any role-specific research governance requirements (ethical and NHS management approvals)
- Assist in the trial process evaluation
- Coordinate public engagement activities
The ideal candidate will have previous experience working with clinical trials and clinical data collection, and have excellent organisational and communication skills. They will be responsible for coordinating their own work and time to meet project milestones and deadlines, ensuring that it is completed efficiently and to the highest of research standards.

The role would be ideal for someone with previous experience as a clinical trial researcher; a motivated person looking for an opportunity to work on a ground-breaking study that has potential to affect future healthcare and social policy.

The successful candidate will join the small, friendly Centre for Rural Health team, part of the University of Aberdeen’s Institute of Applied Health Sciences. The role is based in Inverness, so the post-holder must be willing to work in the Scottish Highlands.
TERMS OF APPOINTMENT

Salary will be at the appropriate point on the Grade 6, £33,797- £40,323 per annum and negotiable with placement according to qualifications and experience.

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

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

This role is based in the UK and as such the successful candidate will be required to live and work in the UK.

This post does not meet the minimum requirements for visa sponsorship under the Skilled Worker Route. We are therefore unable to consider applicants for this post that require sponsorship to work in the UK.

AT A GLANCE

SALARY:
Grade 6
£33,797- £40,323 per annum

HOURS OF WORK:
90% FTE (33.75 hours per week)

CONTRACT TYPE:
Project Limited, Available for 15 months

LOCATION:
Inverness
# Person Specification

## Education/Qualifications

**ESSENTIAL**
- MSc in a healthcare-related topic, or clinical qualification and related experience

**DESIRABLE**
- Current good clinical practice training
- PhD in a healthcare-related topic

## Work and Other relevant experience (including training)

**ESSENTIAL**
- Experience of writing reports and peer reviewed publications
- Experience of multidisciplinary working
- Experience of presenting completed research to diverse audiences
- Experience of working in clinical research studies
- Experience of quantitative data analysis
- Experience of working with confidential data and awareness of data protection issues

**DESIRABLE**
- Experience of community-based clinical research
- Experience in child health research
- Experience of working with vulnerable families with small children
- Experience of qualitative research methods and analysis

## Personal qualities and abilities

**ESSENTIAL**

**DESIRABLE**

## Other

**ESSENTIAL**

**DESIRABLE**

e.g. special circumstances (if any) appropriate to the role such as unsocial hours, travelling, Gaelic language requirements etc.
UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN

open to all and dedicated to the pursuit of truth in the service of others

The University of Aberdeen is a broad based, research intensive University, and we put students at the centre of everything we do. Outstanding in a wide range of discipline areas, Aberdeen is credited for its international reach and commercialisation of research ideas into spin out companies. The University has over 16,000 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 and inspires.

CURRENT CONTEXT

The University continues to build on the achievements above. Underpinning our high performance and significant growth is a £100m investment in Aberdeen’s estate which will include the completion of a new Science Teaching Hub, the regeneration of the historic King’s Quarter and a new Business School building. The University has also invested in 50 new academic posts and in 2020 launched five interdisciplinary, cross-institution Research Centres that will catalyse world-leading research in our areas of strength. Our five Interdisciplinary Challenges are: Energy Transition; Social Inclusion and Cultural Diversity; Environment and Biodiversity; Data and Artificial Intelligence; and Health, Nutrition and Wellbeing.

ABERDEEN 2040

On our 525th anniversary as a University we launched Aberdeen 2040, our strategic vision for the next 20 years. Four strategic themes will shape our learning and discovery, underlined by 20 commitments we have made against each theme:

- Inclusive
  We welcome students, staff and partners from all backgrounds, organisations and communities. We value diversity.

- Interdisciplinary
  We innovate in education and research by generating, sharing and applying new kinds of knowledge. We learn together.

- International
  We connect with others and extend our networks and partnerships around the world. We think across borders.

- Sustainable
  We understand and nurture our environment, and take care of our resources, including our people and finances. We work responsibly.
OUR EDUCATION

Recognised as the Scottish University of the Year in the Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2019, we remain true to our roots as an ancient Scottish university, combining breadth and depth in our degree programmes and drawing strength from the quality of our research. Our flexible curriculum encourages students to grow as independent learners and therefore to thrive as graduates in the diverse workplaces of the future. Our education is open to all and we are setting ambitious targets to further widen access.

OUR RESEARCH

Researchers at the University of Aberdeen have been at the forefront of innovation and excellence throughout the centuries, generating insights in medicine, science, engineering, law, social sciences, arts and humanities. This research has contributed to five Nobel prizes as well as other awards such as the Queen’s Anniversary prize. Our research is intellectually rigorous working within our established areas of excellence as well as new methods of enquiry. We will continue to generate new knowledge addressing economic and societal issues with ambition and imagination, ensuring that it is globally excellent and locally relevant.

INTERNATIONAL

Aberdeen is increasing its international presence, positioning the University as a global organisation and building on established global partnerships in e.g. Qatar, China, North America, Europe. We feature in the top 50 institutions worldwide for international students¹ and have been named 32nd in the world for International Outlook². The University of Aberdeen is proud to be the first UK University to operate on a dedicated campus in Qatar. Phase 1 of this partnership with AFG College has successfully recruited over 600 students. Phase 2 will see the creation of a substantially larger campus, with capacity for at least 5,000 students and research activity. For further information on our Qatar campus visit www.abdn.ac.uk/qatar.

IMPACT

Our dedication to building a sustainable future is reflected in the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2021 where we were ranked in the top 60 Universities worldwide for positive impact on society.

In 2020 the University signed the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals accord, solidifying our commitment to developing the world in a sustainable way. In 2021 we were listed in the global Top 50 for 6 of these goals and in the UK Top 20 for all 17³.

¹ Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2021
² QS World University Rankings 2021
³ Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2021
The School (https://www.abdn.ac.uk/smsn/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 for Medical and Dental Sciences https://www.abdn.ac.uk/iemds/
- The Institute of Dentistry https://www.abdn.ac.uk/dental/

The Centre for Rural Health is part of the Institute for Applied Health Sciences (IAHS). 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.
INVERNESS AND THE HIGHLANDS

The Highland region covers an area larger than Belgium, which varies from urban populations to sparsely populated rural mainland and islands. It is an area of outstanding beauty and natural resources for outdoor leisure pursuits: walking, climbing, skiing, sailing, golf, nature reserves, water sports and many others. The terrain varies from high mountains to sweeping sandy bays to open moorland and lochs. It offers an environment of a quality only dreamed of in other parts of the country.

Inverness, the Capital of the Highlands, offers excellent cultural facilities with a modern theatre and concert hall, an art gallery and museum, visiting performing artistes of international status, and an annual festival. The University of the Highlands & Islands is now under definitive development as a multi campus university. Tourism greatly enriches the city, which offers a wide range of shops and restaurants. The city and the surrounding area have ranked consistently highly in nationally recognised quality of life surveys, coming out top 10 as one of the best places to live in Scotland in 2020 in the annual Bank of Scotland survey.

To find our more visit https://www.visitinvernesslochness.com/
EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

The University values a diverse working environment and recognises the benefits this can bring. The University 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 at 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 at an institutional level and across all its subject areas. 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) users can contact us directly by using contact SCOTLAND-BSL.

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

www.abdn.ac.uk/staffnet/governance/equality-and-diversity-277
HOW TO APPLY

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

The closing date for receipt of applications is 05 July 2021

Should you wish to make an informal enquiry please contact:

Dr Lucy Thompson, Senior Research Fellow, Centre for Rural Health
Tel: 01463 255896 or e-mail: lucy.thompson@abdn.ac.uk

Professor Philip Wilson
Tel: 01463 255085 or e-mail: p.wilson@abdn.ac.uk

Please do not send application forms or CVs to Prof Phil Wilson or Dr Lucy Thompson

Please quote reference number IHS102R on all correspondence