



Senior Lecturer in Health Psychology

School of Medicine, Medical Sciences and Nutrition

Closing date: 22 October 2019

Interview date: To be confirmed

Reference number: IHS061A



Introduction

We wish to recruit a highly productive, motivated Senior Lecturer in Health Psychology to join the Aberdeen Health Psychology Group (AHPG), which is a key part of the University's Institute of Applied Health Sciences (IAHS). You must have a PhD in Health Psychology or a closely related qualification in psychology /behavioural science, a strong track record in published research and external grant income, and the ability to contribute to the teaching in the School's undergraduate and postgraduate programs and in particular, contribute to our British Psychological Society accredited MSc Health Psychology.

Aberdeen has a rare combination of internationally recognised strengths in biomedical and population-based health research and robust partnerships exist between applied health scientists, clinical academics, health service researchers and colleagues in the healthcare professions in primary and secondary care.

At a glance

Salary:

Grade 8 £52,559-
£59,135 per annum

Hours of work:

Full-time, 37.5 hours per
week

Contract type:

Substantive

Job description

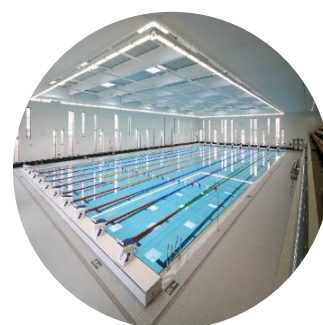
Main purpose of the role:

We wish to appoint a Senior Lecturer in Health Psychology with a strong research and teaching background to join the Aberdeen Health Psychology Group.

The post holder will be expected to carry out research, apply for external funding, and teach at postgraduate level, in particular on our British Psychological Society accredited MSc Health Psychology. The Aberdeen Health Psychology Group carries out research into behaviours, cognitions and emotions in the context of health, illness and healthcare (<https://www.abdn.ac.uk/iahs/research/health-psychology/index.php>) and has a strong track record in the development and advancement of psychological theories and methodology. The successful applicant will contribute to the research and teaching activities of both the Health Psychology Group (<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/iahs/research/health-psychology/research.php>) and the wider Institute of Applied Health Sciences (<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/iahs/research/index.php>).

Research: The Group's research programme centres around the study of health behaviour and behaviour change with a focus on behavioural interventions; behaviour change techniques; determinants of health relevant behaviours (diet, physical activity, smoking, medication adherence, etc); disability as a behaviour and health professional behaviour (stress, fatigue, decision making, etc). The group has methodological strengths in ecological momentary assessment, intensive longitudinal designs, and the design and evaluation of complex behavioural interventions. The post holder will:

- Conduct theoretically based, high quality, applied health research
- Engage in collaborations with various multidisciplinary research groups, adding their own specific research and theoretical expertise, contributing to grant applications, project delivery and publications in high quality, peer reviewed journals.
- Build a funded programme of independent research in health psychology, linked to the strategic themes of the AHPG and the IAHS.
- Act as supervisor to research students according to individual area(s) of research expertise, experience and interest.
- Be proactive as a member of the Aberdeen Health Psychology Group, contributing to its workshop programme and mentoring and supporting staff and students.



Teaching: The Health Psychology Group deliver a range of postgraduate and undergraduate teaching including a British Psychological Society accredited Stage 1 MSc in Health Psychology, undergraduate teaching on Behaviour, Health & Wellbeing, a postgraduate course on behaviour change and standalone teaching/training in various health disciplines (e.g. medicine, dentistry, sports science, etc). Group members supervise both taught MSc and PhD level research projects. The post holder will:

- Develop, co-ordinate and deliver content for one or more of the MSc's taught courses (Health Behaviour & Behaviour Change; Stress, Personality & Health; Illness, Disability & Interactions with Healthcare; Research Methods & Practice; Health Professional Behaviour; Statistics for Health Psychology)
- Supervise MSc research projects
- Participate in CPD activities centred around the improvement of teaching and learning.
- Engage with Institute and School level teaching priorities and initiatives

Other activities

The post holder will also be expected to contribute to the wider academic life of the University through participation in various committees, and in continuing professional development.

Candidate background

We are looking for an exceptional academic to join our team.

Person specification:

Knowledge

- PhD in Health Psychology or closely related field
- Thorough knowledge of the theoretical basis of Health Psychology and/or behaviour change

Skills

- Analytical capability and an enquiring, critical approach to work
- Good written and spoken communication skills, ability to build rapport, work with others, the ability to convey ideas and concepts clearly and effectively and to communicate effectively with colleagues
- Good organisational skills
- Ability to work as part of a team as well as on own
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Strong methodological skills including research design, measurement and analysis
- Analytical, IT and data management skills
- Ability to think creatively and innovatively and impart enthusiasm for subject
- Commitment to multidisciplinary team working

Experience

- Strong track record in attracting research funding
- Track record as PI or Co-I on research grants
- Excellent record of publishing high quality research in health psychology and behavioural medicine
- Wide experience of teaching and coordinating courses at Undergraduate and/or Postgraduate levels, and of PhD supervision



Terms of appointment

Salary will be at the appropriate point on the Grade 8 salary scale and negotiable with placement according to qualifications and experience.

Any appointment will be made subject to satisfactory references.

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

We offer a package of attractive terms and conditions, optional benefits and special offers, including flexible working opportunities and other family friendly policies.

Should you require a visa to undertake paid employment in the UK you will be required to fulfil the minimum points criteria to be granted a Certificate of Sponsorship and Tier 2 visa. As appropriate, at the time an offer of appointment is made you will be asked to demonstrate that you fulfil the criteria in respect of financial maintenance and competency in English. Please do not hesitate to contact Mr Grant Rae, HR Adviser (e-mail: g.rae@abdn.ac.uk) for further information.

Person specification

	<i>Essential</i>	<i>Desirable</i>
Education/Qualifications Academic, technical and professional education and training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PhD in Health Psychology or closely related field • Thorough knowledge of the theoretical basis of Health Psychology and/or behaviour change 	
Work and Other relevant experience (including training) eg Specialist knowledge, levels of experience, supervisory experience, research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong track record in attracting research funding • Track record as PI or Co-I on research grants • Excellent record of publishing high quality research in health psychology and behavioural medicine • Wide experience of teaching / coordinating courses at Undergraduate and/or Postgraduate levels and of PhD supervision 	
Personal qualities and abilities eg initiative, leadership, ability to work on own or with others, communication skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analytical capability and an enquiring, critical approach to work • Good written and spoken communication skills, ability to build rapport, work with others, the ability to convey ideas and concepts clearly and effectively and to communicate effectively with colleagues • Good organisational skills • Ability to work as part of a team as well as on own • Excellent written and verbal communication skills • Strong methodological skills including research design, measurement and analysis • Analytical, IT and data management skills • Ability to think creatively and innovatively and impart enthusiasm for subject • Commitment to multidisciplinary team working 	
Other eg special circumstances (if any) appropriate to the role such as unsocial hours, travelling, Gaelic language requirements etc.		

The University

Founded in 1495, Aberdeen is Scotland's third oldest University and the fifth oldest in the UK. Ranked within the world top 140 in the recent QS global league table, Aberdeen is the 'global University of the north'.

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 across the entire research spectrum, 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 120 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.

School of Medicine, Medical Sciences and Nutrition

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 for 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/acdc/>)
- 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 Institute of Applied Health Sciences

The Director of the Institute of Applied Health Sciences (IAHS) is Professor Amanda Lee. The Institute's mission is 'to improve health and health care delivery through excellence in applied health sciences research'.

IAHS will achieve this mission by creating a vibrant research culture that provides staff with the support and facilities required for the efficient conduct of research into the need for, access to, and delivery of healthcare. The research continues to contribute locally, nationally and internationally to the evidence base needed by individuals, health care providers and organisations when making decisions about maximising health and optimising health care services. As well as producing high quality research findings, the Institute contributes to building capacity in health service research by providing training and development opportunities for its members.

The IAHS is also fortunate to host two Chief Scientist Office funded units, the Health Services Research Unit (<https://www.abdn.ac.uk/hsru/>) and the Health Economics Research Institute (<https://www.abdn.ac.uk/heru/>). The Centre for Healthcare Randomised Trials (CHaRT) is part of HSU and is well known as one of the leading clinical trials unit in the UK. CHaRT provides high quality support for clinical academic and clinicians wishing to develop clinical trials. Also within the Institute is the Centre for Health Data Sciences (<https://www.abdn.ac.uk/achds/>) that aims to create innovative, interdisciplinary, data science solutions to the big challenges for health and health care, to improve health for individuals, local communities and internationally. It contains the Grampian Data Safe Haven (DaSH) backing up the safe handling of linked public data sets for research.

The Institute's research strategy is based on upon applying current methodological strength to selected clinical topics. The methodological strengths are constant, whilst the clinical areas are subject to more variation and will vary in their degree of prominence over time.

For further information on the IAHS, please go to www.abdn.ac.uk/iahs

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), Paris (Charles De-Gaulle) and Frankfurt as well as flights to other European destinations. <http://www.aberdeenairport.com> Road and rail links are also well developed.

Many new housing developments have taken place in surrounding villages providing a wide choice of housing within easy commuting distance by car. Education facilities are excellent and in addition to Regional Education Authority schools, there are two fee-paying schools for girls and one co-educational college. All three cater for primary and secondary pupils. North East Scotland College (Nescol <https://nescol.ac.uk/>) is one of Scotland's largest colleges of further/higher education and vocational training. Last year it had over 30,000 student enrolments.

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.

The following outdoor pursuits are available in and around Aberdeen:

Skiing - 3 ski centres within 2 hours drive of Aberdeen. The nearest centre only one hour away. There is a good dry ski slope in the city

Watersports - Aberdeen has one of the best surf breaks on the east coast of Scotland with further good surfing at Fraserburgh. There are numerous inshore and offshore windsurfing opportunities. Excellent sea kayaking off the local coastline with river kayaking in River Dee and North Esk. Power kiting / surf-kiting in Fraserburgh.

Cycling – There are three local road cycling clubs and there is a wealth of excellent road cycling routes out, particularly to the west and north, from the city which are within very easy reach. Due to the relatively compact nature of Aberdeen it is possible to very quickly escape the city and enjoy a wonderful network of quiet country roads.

Mountain Biking – There are local official trails at Kirkhill Forest on edge of the city with many unofficial mountain biking opportunities within an hour of the city. There is a downhill mountain bike course at the Lecht (90 min).



Walking - ranging from the forests around the city and the Deeside Way to long-distance footpaths to more difficult routes along Deeside, Glen Muick (leading to Lochnagar), Glen Tanar culminating in challenging high level routes into the Cairngorms, the largest National Park in the UK.

Climbing – There is indoor climbing at Transition Extreme and RGU sports centre in the city and outdoor and winter climbing on Lochnagar and the Cairngorms.

Golf - many excellent links and parkland courses both public and private including Royal Aberdeen which hosted the 2014 Scottish Open and the 2011 Walker Cup. Trump International Scotland is only 20 minutes from the city boundary.

Country pursuits- fishing on Dee, Don and Spey and shooting estates in the East Cairngorms.

There are 4 National Nature Reserves within an hour's drive - Sands of Forvie, Muir of Dinnet, Glen Tanar, St Cyrus and 3 RSPB reserves (Fowlsheugh, Meikle Lodge and Loch of Strathbeg) and one SWT reserve (Montrose Basin) – all within an hour's drive.

To find out more about Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire go to www.VisitScotland.com

How to apply

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

The closing date for receipt of applications is 22 October 2019

Should you wish to make an informal enquiry please contact:

Professor Amanda Lee, Director of the Institute of Applied Health Sciences 01224 437111
a.j.lee@abdn.ac.uk or

Dr Julia Allan, Senior lecturer in Health Psychology 01224 438103 j.allan@abdn.ac.uk

Please do not send application forms or CVs to Professor Lee or Dr Allan.

Please quote reference number IHS061A on all correspondence

The University pursues a policy of equal opportunities in the appointment and promotion of staff.