

Research Fellow (Statistician)

Health Services Research Unit, Institute of Applied Health Sciences

Closing date: **06 December 2022**

Interview date: **To Be Confirmed**

Reference number: **HSR064R**



INTRODUCTION

The Health Services Research Unit (HSRU) has a national remit to research the best ways to provide health care, and to train those working in the health services in research methods. Most research projects aim to find out whether developments within the health service really are effective, efficient and appropriate. There are approximately 70 members of staff, working together cohesively, with everyone's contribution valued. The atmosphere is friendly, informal and efficient.

The Unit is supported by the Chief Scientist Office (CSO) of the Scottish Government Health and Social Care Directorates, the University of Aberdeen and competitive grant income.

The Unit has responsibility for the following general remit:

1. To study or evaluate clinical activities with a view to improving effectiveness and efficiency in health care
2. To work for the implementation of proven changes in clinical activities
3. To encourage and support similar work throughout Scotland
4. To train NHS staff in Scotland, and others, in the principles and practice of health services research in general, and health care evaluation in particular

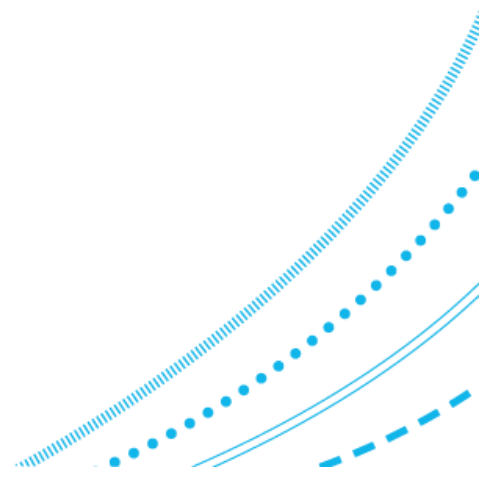
In pursuit of this remit, the Unit has established an internationally recognised portfolio of health services research focusing on two main programmes (described below). Programmes of knowledge synthesis and methodological research underpin the substantive research. The research is marked by being multidisciplinary and collaborative, involving a range of national and international partners. In 2017 the Unit (jointly with the University's Health Economics Research Unit) won the Queen's Anniversary Prize for Further and Higher Education, the highest national honour available for a UK university in recognition of our world-leading research into health services.

Staff from HSRU made a major contribution to the University's submission to the Unit of Assessment 2 (Public Health, Health Services and Primary Care) in the 2014 Research Excellence Framework. REF 2014 confirmed that we are top for Public Health, Health Services and Primary Care research in Scotland and over 80% of our submitted work was rated as "internationally excellent" or "world leading". The Unit has an outstanding publications record – approximately 150 academic articles, monographs, reports and presentations are recorded every year and we also encourage staff to take part in other forms of public engagement. Further details about our publications are at <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/hsru/publications/>.

The Unit also contributes to health services research training at four levels - undergraduate, postgraduate, professional and continuing education.

We also co-host:

- Centre for Healthcare Randomised Trials (CHaRT)
- NIHR HTA Technology Assessment Review (TARs) team



JOB DESCRIPTION

MAIN PURPOSE OF THE ROLE:

We are looking for a statistician to join the statistical team within the Health Services Research Unit.

The team are involved in a wide range of statistical activities including the design, conduct and analysis of randomised trials, meta-analysis, decision modelling, non-randomised studies and methodological research projects in these areas, with collaborators from other national and international centres. The post offers excellent opportunities for career development as a member of a research group with an established international reputation in health services research.

The Health Services Research Unit undertakes a major programme of research which includes randomised controlled trials coordinated by the Centre for Healthcare Randomised Trials (CHaRT), systematic reviews (including meta-analysis), cohort studies, quasi-experiments and descriptive surveys. The statistical team has input across all Unit projects and hence is required to provide advice on a wide range of statistical issues. Typically, this includes advising on the design of projects, data management, and undertaking analysis where appropriate.

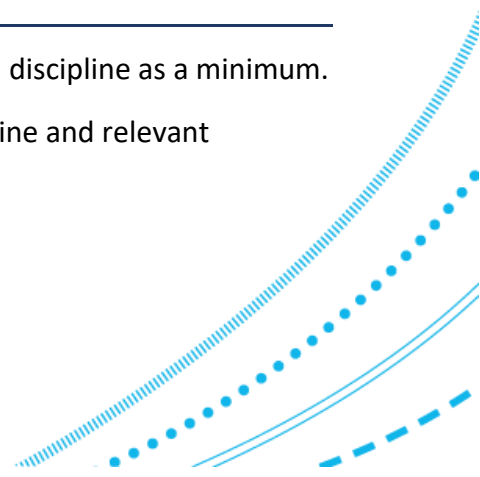
KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Undertaking statistical analyses of large multi-centre trials
- Preparation of statistical analysis plans and reports
- Communication with non-statistician colleagues on statistical aspects of the design, conduct, analysis and reporting of research within the Unit
- Quality assurance of statistical processes
- Contribute to scientific publication and presentations

CANDIDATE BACKGROUND

The successful candidate will have a good degree in statistics or a quantitative discipline as a minimum.

Ideally, you would also have a PhD or MSc in statistics or a quantitative discipline and relevant experience of the skills and experience required to operate at this level.



Salary will be at the appropriate point on the Grade 6, £35,333 - £42,155 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.

Should you require a visa to undertake employment in the UK you will be required to fulfil the minimum points criteria to be granted a Certificate of Sponsorship under the requirements of the Skilled Worker visa. At the time an offer of appointment is made, you will be asked to demonstrate that you fulfil the criteria in respect of qualification and competency in English. For research and academic posts, we will consider eligibility under the Global Talent visa. Please do not hesitate to contact Grant Rae, HR Adviser (e-mail: grant.rae@abdn.ac.uk) for further information.

The candidate appointed to this post may be eligible for homeworking on an occasional or regular basis. For more information please refer to our [Homeworking Policy](#).



AT A GLANCE

SALARY:

Grade 6
£35,333 - £42,155

HOURS OF WORK:

Full-Time, 37.5 hours per week

CONTRACT TYPE:

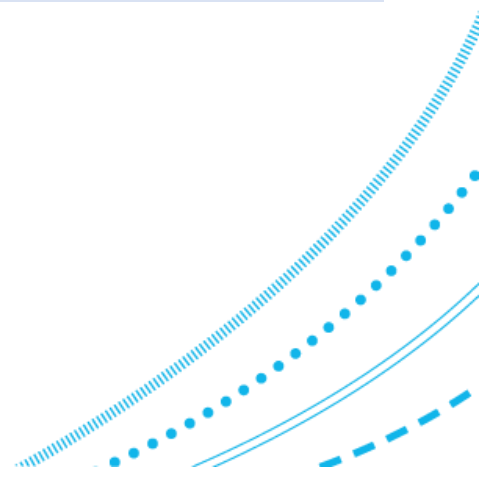
Substantive

LOCATION:

Aberdeen

PERSON SPECIFICATION

	ESSENTIAL	DESIRABLE
Education/Qualifications Academic, technical and professional education and training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PhD in statistics or a quantitative discipline, or an MSc plus appropriate post-qualification experience. 	
Work and Other relevant experience (including training) e.g. Specialist knowledge, levels of experience, supervisory experience, research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relevant experience and skills to operate at this level Experience of working in statistical analysis within the healthcare field Research experience in methodologies that fit within the Unit's portfolio of projects Evidence of completed research and published research outputs Sound IT skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supervisory experience Experience of Stata, SAS, WinBuGS R and/or Latex is desirable
Personal qualities and abilities e.g. initiative, leadership, ability to work on own or with others, communication skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interest in data management and statistical analysis in the healthcare field The ability to work effectively within a multidisciplinary team The ability to work in a timely fashion to tight deadlines The ability to work with minimal supervision once initial induction/training is completed Ability to work flexibly and present ideas to diverse audiences Strong interpersonal, communication and administrative abilities 	
Other e.g. special circumstances (if any) appropriate to the role such as unsocial hours, travelling, Gaelic language requirements etc.		



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 uphold the principals of the foundational purpose. We remain committed to delivering positive change both locally and globally. We work together and with our partners in an interdisciplinary way, catalysing world-leading research in our areas of strength: Energy Transition; Social Inclusion and Cultural Diversity; Environment and Biodiversity; Data and Artificial Intelligence; and Health, Nutrition and Wellbeing. We are investing in our future and have committed £100m to upgrading our campus, including the new fully digitised Science Teaching Hub, the regeneration of the historic King's Quarter and a new Business School building. Our commitment to our students, campus and community has led to us being named a Top 20 UK institution in two major league tables¹ and 4th in the UK for overall student satisfaction².

¹ The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2023 and the Guardian University Guide 2023

² National Student Survey (NSS) 2022

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.

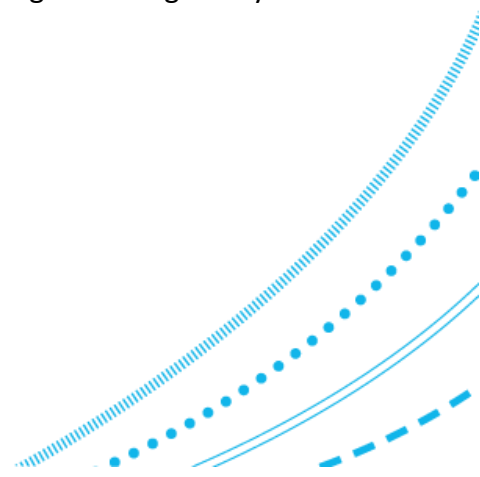
We work responsibly.

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 around the world, including Qatar, China, North America, Europe. We feature in the top 50 institutions worldwide for international students³.

IMPACT

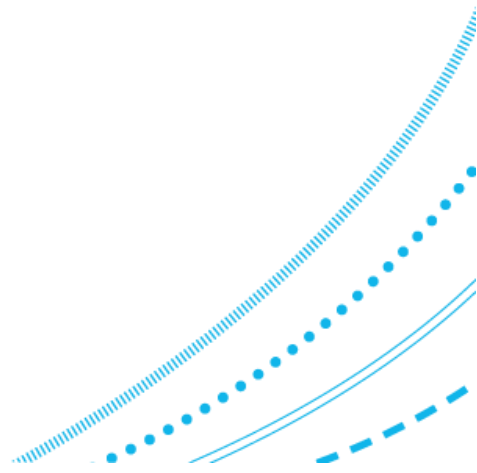
In 2020 the University signed the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals accord, solidifying our commitment to developing the world in a sustainable way. In 2022 we were listed in the global Top 100 for 8 of these goals⁴.

Our highly cited work in zero-carbon technology and global outlooks makes us Scotland's best institution for environmental research⁵.

³ Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2021

⁴ Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2022

⁵ QS World University Rankings 2022



THE 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 Healthcare and Medical Sciences (IEHMS) 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 Healthcare and Medical Sciences <https://www.abdn.ac.uk/IEHMS/>
- The Institute of Dentistry <https://www.abdn.ac.uk/dental/> <https://www.abdn.ac.uk/dental/>

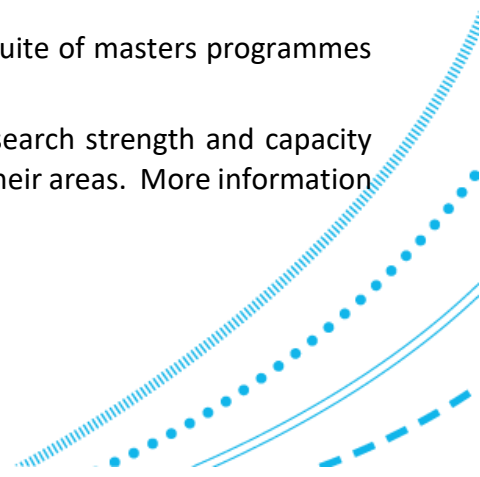
Within the IMS, our scientists are working towards the creation of effective therapies for patients with a range of debilitating and life-threatening conditions. Current research areas include: arthritis and musculoskeletal medicine; cell developmental and cancer biology; immunity, infection and inflammation; 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 IEHMS 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 highly regarded University of Aberdeen MBChB programme and several postgraduate programmes including a Masters in Clinical Education are delivered by IEHMS.

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.

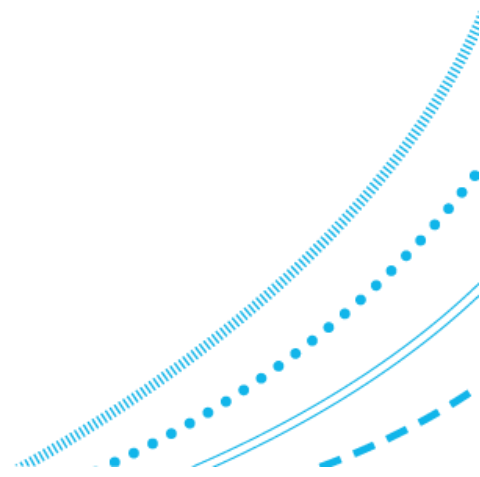


- The Centre for Healthcare Education Research and Innovation (<https://www.abdn.ac.uk/cheri/>)
- The Centre for Health Data Science (<https://www.abdn.ac.uk/achds/>)
- The Aberdeen Cardiovascular & Diabetes Centre (<https://www.abdn.ac.uk/acdc/>) and
- The Aberdeen Centre for Arthritis and Musculoskeletal 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.



ABERDEEN AND ABERDEENSHIRE

Scotland's third largest city, Aberdeen sits on the coast between the mountains of Aberdeenshire and the stunning North Sea coastline. The Aberdeen City region is a can-do place that is actively investing, at scale, in its future.

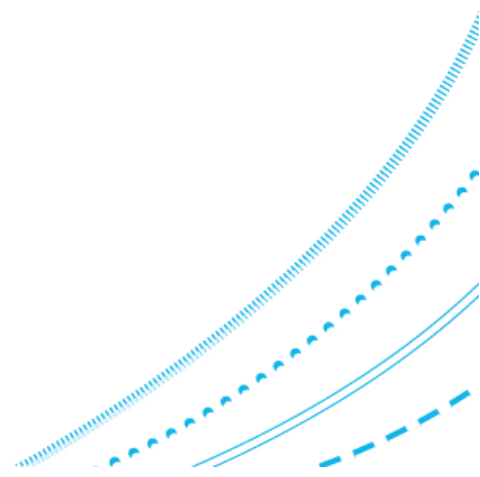
Renowned as a Global Energy Hub, Aberdeen is a vibrant, entrepreneurial region, home to a unique mix of business opportunities and specialist skills across various sectors including energy, technology, life sciences and food & drink. More than 20% of Scotland's top businesses are located in this region which is taking great strides to ensure that it continues to compete on a world stage. Investments of more than £10 billion of public and private infrastructure is due to be delivered before 2030, marking an exciting time to be part of a genuine world-class location.

Built from sparkling local granite Aberdeen has earned the name of the Silver City. As the energy capital of Europe, Aberdeen nevertheless retains its old-fashioned charm and character making it an attractive place in which to live, work and study. Due to its global business and international energy industry credentials, Aberdeen is well served by local and national transport infrastructure with excellent rail networks that run both North and South of Scotland and the rest of the UK. It also acts as an international travel hub. Flying time to London is just over one hour with regular daily flights and serves international travel to European centres such as Amsterdam (Schiphol) and Paris (Charles de Gaulle) as well as flights to other European destinations.

The City and the surrounding countryside provide a variety of urban, seaside and country attractions. Aberdeen has first class amenities including [His Majesty's Theatre](#), [Music Hall](#), [Art Gallery](#), [the P&J Arena](#), [Museums](#), and [Beach Leisure Centre](#). The City is framed by its accessible beach front which is within a short walk of the city centre and there are an array of activities available across the region such as hill walking; mountaineering; sailing; surfing; salmon, trout and sea fishing; golf; sailing; surfing and windsurfing. The surrounding countryside, known as Aberdeenshire, is also 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.

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 out more visit www.visitabdn.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 **06 December 2022**

Should you wish to make an informal enquiry please contact:

Dr Lorna Aucott, Senior Statistician

01224 438198

l.aucott@abdn.ac.uk

Please do not send application forms or CVs to Dr Aucott.

Please quote reference number HSR064R on all correspondence

