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**Job Description**

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| Job Title: | Research associate |
| Faculty/Department: | Hull York Medical School |
| Reporting to: | Dr Liz Mitchell |
| Duration: | 24 months |
| Job Family: | Academic |
| Pay Band: | 6 |
| Benchmark Profile: | Research Band 6 |
| DBS Disclosure requirement: | Yes |
| Vacancy Reference: | HY0172 |

**Details Specific to the Post**

**Background and Context**

The Hull York Medical School has been awarded a large grant by Yorkshire Cancer Research to improve earlier diagnosis of lung cancer. Incidence and deaths from lung cancer are more common in Hull than in England as a whole, and higher than any other area of Yorkshire. Survival from lung cancer is related to stage at diagnosis - advanced presentation at diagnosis resulting in poorer outcomes. There is therefore a need to develop interventions which would result in patients at risk of lung cancer seeking help earlier and being referred sooner for potential lung cancer symptoms.

In this project, we are developing and testing a theoretically driven community-primary care linked intervention to improve both presentation to GPs by patients with potential lung cancer symptoms and referral of these patients, thereby reducing the proportion diagnosed with advanced cancer. We will conduct public and community campaigns and link these to a Lung Health Check (LHC) offered to smokers/ex-smokers in the community and general practices. We will evaluate by analysing awareness of lung cancer symptoms, uptake of the LHC, presentation with potential lung cancer symptoms, chest X-ray /urgent referral, proportion of emergency presentations, and proportion of Stage III and IV cancers diagnosed.

We will recruit established community organisations, some of whom we have already worked with, to participate in the study. In addition, observation and interviews will be carried out within some of the GP practices in our study.

The post will be based within the Supportive care, Early Diagnosis and Advanced disease (SEDA) research group, which is part of the academic Centre for Health and Population Sciences within in the Hull York Medical School and is based on the University of Hull campus [http://research.hyms.ac.uk/researchcentres/chaps/research/seda]. The overall aim of research in SEDA is to apply rigorous health service research methods to understand issues related to cancer diagnosis, supportive care, advanced disease and end of life issues.

You will have a PhD in a relevant discipline (or be close to completion) and will have experience of qualitative research.

We value diversity and we are committed to recruiting and supporting staff and students from all sectors of society. The Hull York Medical School holds a Silver Athena SWAN award. We are committed to developing staff and actively encourage and support staff to take development opportunities.

### Specific Duties and Responsibilities of the post

These include:

* Day to day planning of the project field work and analysis;
* Field work within community groups and GP practices;
* Interviews and focus groups;
* Data analysis;
* Writing up reports for funder and academic papers for publication;
* Presenting the research findings to participants;
* Supporting the study PPI reps;
* Contributing to other research activities within the research group as required;
* Liaising with other members of the research group and collaborators so as to facilitate successful team working;
* Attending courses provided by the university designed to aid your professional development.

Occasional travel to Glasgow to meet the study’s lead qualitative researcher, Dr Sara Macdonald, may be required.

In your covering letter please refer directly to the criteria, given in the person specification below. Applications are assessed by the selection panel according to these criteria.

**GENERIC JOB DESCRIPTION**

The job duties and responsibilities listed below are intended to describe the general nature of the role. The duties and responsibilities and the balance between the elements in the role may change or vary over time depending on the specific needs at a specific point in time or due to changing needs in the department. Candidates should note that there may not be an immediate requirement to carry out all the activities listed below.

### Overall Purpose of the Role

This is an entry level post and may be suitable for those planning to train and develop their research skills so that they may take on a more senior research post in the future.

Research Staff at this level will assist an individual research leader or team to carry out a particular study or studies.

The research assistant will receive close supervision and direction from more senior colleagues and will receive academic, pastoral support and guidance which may include specific training, career counselling and mentoring.

The main focus of the work will involve the generation or collection of data using standard methods which have been developed by others. The role holder will assist with analysis and interpretation of results and the drafting of research reports and publications.

**Main Work Activities**

1. Pro-actively contribute to the research project and conduct own research to include:

* Gather, prepare, analyse and interpret data
* Conduct literature and database searches
* Write up and present own research results

1. Contribute to the management of research projects to include:

* Contribute to the planning of projects
* Plan own research activity within the framework of the agreed programme

1. Prepare reports and papers describing the results of the research for both internal and external publication to include:

* Contribute to the production of research reports and publications
* Present information on research progress and outcomes to bodies supervising research

1. Work positively with colleagues in the research team and other collaborators and partners and support staff on routine matters both inside and outside the University

* Make internal and external contacts to develop knowledge and understanding and form relationships for future collaboration.
* Actively participate as a member of the research team which will involve attending and contributing to relevant meetings.

1. Provide guidance as required to support staff and any project students who may be assisting with the research.
2. Demonstrate evidence of own personal and professional development including:

* Appraisal, induction and performance reviews
* Participation in training and development activity
* Maintenance of links with professional institutions and other related bodies

### Additionally the post holder will be required to:

* Fulfil the employees’ duties described in the University’s health and safety policies and co-operate with the health and safety arrangements in place within the department. May be required to undertake specific health and safety roles on request e.g. Display screen equipment assessor, departmental safety officer, fire warden
* Show a commitment to diversity, equal opportunities and anti-discriminatory practices This includes undertaking mandatory equality and diversity training
* Comply with University regulations, policies and procedures

**PERSON SPECIFICATION – Research Band 6**

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| **Specification** | **Essential** | **Desirable** | **Examples Measured by** |
| **Education and Training**  Formal qualifications and relevant training | * BSc, BA or Masters degree in relevant discipline * PhD or equivalent in relevant discipline |  | Application |
| **Work Experience**  Ability to undertake duties of the post | **Evidence of:**   * Experience of qualitative field work * Experience of analysis and interpretation of qualitative data * Drafting research reports, participating in scientific conferences and contributing to drafting scientific publications * Evidence of collaborative working | * Experience of ethnographic methods | Application  Interview |
| **Skills and Knowledge**  Includes abilities and intellect | **Evidence of:**   * Collaborative working and networking to enhance and develop research * Good written and verbal communication and presentation skills * Good writing skills | * Expertise in primary care or cancer research | Application  Interview |
| **Personal Qualities**  Includes any specific physical requirements of the post – (subject to the provisions of the Equality Act 2010) | **Evidence of:**   * An expectation to positively contribute to University activities and initiatives including open days, graduation ceremonies etc and willingness to undertake administrative activities * Working in an open and transparent way, providing information and communicating effectively with colleagues * Collaborative working, particularly on interdisciplinary activities * Continuous Professional Development. |  | Interview |