

**Job Description**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Job Title: | Research Assistant |
| Faculty/Professional Directorate: | Faculty of Health Sciences |
| Subject Group/Team: | Hull York Medical School |
| Reporting to: | Research Fellow |
| Duration: | Fixed term, 12 months 0.5 FTE |
| Job Family: | Academic |
| Pay Band: | 6 |
| Benchmark Profile: | Research Band 6 |
| DBS Disclosure requirement: | Yes |
| Vacancy Reference: | HY0409 |

**Details Specific to the Post**

**Background and Context**

Through funding from the Medical Research Council, an exciting opportunity has arisen for a mixed methods researcher to join our team to identify methodological best practice for qualitative and quantitative research relevant to ethnicity in palliative and end-of-life care. Each year 600,000 UK people die. This number will continue to grow. Many people living in the UK come from ethnically diverse communities. By 2051, nearly 40 million will be aged 65 years and over. Many will experience illnesses that lead to death. Palliative care improves the experiences and outcomes of care for people with life-limiting illnesses and their families. Research that has explored the relationship between ethnicity and palliative care has shown care is often not provided fairly, meaning patients from ethnically diverse groups and their families have poor experiences and outcomes of care. Researchers have often used different methods when exploring these issues so the findings are not easy to compare; the research questions asked have not always reflected what people from ethnically diverse communities want and the findings from the research have not been written clearly or with respect.

This study will make use of a modified Delphi study where we will seek out people from ethnically diverse communities living in the UK, expert researchers who have done work in the field before, and health professionals who care for patients from ethnically diverse communities and charities e.g. Marie Curie and Macmillan Cancer Support among others. We will produce a consensus statement to guide the application of methods relevant to investigating ethnicity and palliative and end-of-life care, the first of its kind in the UK, with relevant learning for researchers globally. The statement will make recommendations on the collection and analysis of quantitative and qualitative research data and will be based on a robust consensus process involving experts from palliative care, social science and representatives from diverse communities living in the UK.

### The research team is headed up by Professor Jonathan Koffman from the Wolfson Palliative Care Research Centre at Hull York Medical School with co-applicant colleagues from the University of Leeds (Dr Gemma Clarke), Newcastle University (Dr Felicity Dewhurst), King’s College London (Dr Joanna Davies, Dr Sabrina Bajwah & Dr Emeka Chukwusa), LOROS Hospice (Dr Zoebia Islam) and Bradford Teaching Hospital NHS Found Trust (Dr Jamilla Hussain), with “expert by experience” PPI involvement colleagues, Irfhan Ali Mururajan and Rashmi Kumar.

**Specific Duties and Responsibilities of the post**

The successful candidate will work with the team to identify the sample who possess relevant, knowledgeable and dedicated to the field of study. They will identify palliative care academics, social scientists who are experts in the scholarship around ethnicity and race, demographers, and clinicians from services that serve culturally diverse communities, all of whom are themselves represented by a variety of ED backgrounds. They will also purposefully identify patient and public involvement experts (PPIE) from ED communities to serve as representatives as well as representatives from Marie Curie, Macmillan and Cancer UK and other relevant charities.

They will be responsible for the development of the online Delphi survey using suitable software for example “DelphiManager” or “Qualitrics”.

They will be responsible for the sequential phases of the modified Delphi procedure leading through the final phase which aims to achieve consensus.

They will be responsible for the qualitative content analysis from the first phases of the modified Delphi and subsequent quantitative analysis of data from phases two and three leading to consensus.

They will be responsible for organising and convening an Expert in-person meeting to share the findings from the modified Delphi study, discuss the best methods when researching ethnicity and palliative care and how to report findings and how to implement the guidance into routine research practice for those undertaking research among ethnically diverse and minoritised communities.

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**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Specification** | **Essential** | **Desirable** | **Examples Measured by** |
| **Education and Training**  Formal qualifications and relevant training | * Working towards a PhD in a relevant discipline * BSc, BA or Master’s degree in a relevant discipline |  | Application |
| **Work Experience**  Ability to undertake duties of the post | **Evidence of:**   * Data collection * Analysis and interpretation of results * Qualitative data collection * Qualitative analysis | Evidence of:   * Use of software to manage the data analysis * Drafting research reports, participating in scientific conferences and contributing to drafting scientific publications * Conducting literature review | Application  Interview  Other |
| **Skills and Knowledge**  Includes abilities and intellect | **Evidence of:**   * Collaborative working and networking to enhance and develop research |  | Application  Interview  Other |
| **Personal Qualities**  Includes any specific physical requirements of the post – (subject to the provisions of the Equality Act 2010) | **Evidence of:**   * A commitment to equality diversity and inclusion * 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. |  | Application  Interview  Other |