

**Job Description**

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| Job Title: | Research Fellow (Qualitative) |
| Faculty/Professional Directorate: | Faculty of Health Sciences, Institute of Clinical and Applied Health Research |
| Subject Group/Team: | Methods Hub |
| Reporting to: | Reader in Mixed Methods |
| Duration: | Fixed Term to 30 June 2026 with possibility of extension to August 2030 |
| Job Family:  | Academic |
| Pay Band: | 7 |
| Benchmark Profile: | Research Band 7 |
| DBS Disclosure requirement: | May be required |
| Vacancy Reference: | HY0354R |

**Details Specific to the Post**

**Background and Context**

### This post provides a valuable opportunity for a qualitative researcher to develop expertise in clinical trial process evaluations, and clinical trial recruitment methods. The post is based in the Institute of Clinical and Applied Health Research, a multidisciplinary research group that brings together applied health researchers from across the Faculty of Health Sciences, at the University of Hull. The postholder will sit within the Methods Hub which is headed by Dr Maureen Twiddy, and includes expertise in statistics, epidemiology, qualitative methods, systematic reviewing and clinical trials.

We have secured funding from the National Institute for Health Research Health Technology Assessment Programme to undertake a randomised clinical trial to compare the clinical outcomes and cost-effectiveness of through knee amputation (TKA) compared to above knee amputation (AKA) in patients requiring major lower limb amputation, but who are unsuitable for a below knee amputation. Embedded within the trial is a process evaluation and longitudinal qualitative work exploring long term quality of life for these populations. The trial will start with an 18-month pilot study (starting March 2025) within which an embedded qualitative process evaluation will run to understand the acceptability of the intervention and trial processes to patients (consenters and trial decliners). Data will be fed back to the trial management team to support revisions to trial processes.

**Specific duties of the role**

The post holder will undertake the qualitative process evaluation that is embedded within the HAMLET trial.

During the site set up phase of the trial, the post holder will work with the clinical trial team to work with sites to understand the logistical barriers, set up delays and recruitment issues from the perspective of sites, and identify and test out potential solutions.

During the pilot study the postholder will conduct cross-sectional interviews with trial consenters and decliners to capture their understanding of the trial to inform trial management and planning.

The postholder will also conduct longitudinal interviews with patients to capture longer term recovery experiences of participants (up to 3 years post amputation), as little is known about the quality of life impact of amputation. Towards the end of the trial the researcher will conduct interviews with trial staff to elucidate the implementation issues surrounding this intervention to understand how sites can support adoption of TKA, should the trial demonstrate patient benefit.

The Research Fellow will be responsible for all data collection and analysis, with input from the wider team on analysis and interpretation of the findings. As interviews may take place face to face, this post will involve some national travel and provides good opportunities for national and regional networking with sites across the UK.

### The continuation of funding to the full trial is dependent on recruitment to the pilot study, so the post will be offered to 2026 in the first instance.

The post holder will be part of the HAMLET qualitative team working with the research lead Dr Maureen Twiddy, Mr George Smith, the Chief Investigator (based at University of Hull and Hull Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust), PPI members, and York Clinical Trials Unit.

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

Facilitating the engagement of clinicians at sites, in conjunction with York Trials Unit staff

Liaison with York Trials Unit and the Vascular Unit at HYMS

Writing research protocols and seeking/gaining ethical and related approvals

Setting up and undertaking interviews with patients and staff.

Maintaining relevant records on recruitment to the study

Collecting qualitative research data using semi-structured interviews

Leading the analysis, interpretation and write up of qualitative material in conjunction with the research team.

Contributing to other research activities as required

Liaising with other members of the research team and collaborators so as to facilitate successful team working and delivery of the programme

Organising and attending team meetings as required

Preparation of reports for team and other meetings and for NIHR, as well as abstracts for conferences and papers for publications

The post holder will be expected to attend courses provided by the university designed to aid their professional development.

Liaison with and assisting NHS and other clinical collaborators regarding study set up, recruitment and conduct

Liaising with the NIHR Clinical Research Network to upload accruals.

**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

The researcher at this level will be:

* An experienced and professional researcher and will be a subject specialist, drawing upon knowledge gained from postgraduate research and/or working within a Research Band 6 role.
* Associated with a particular project (or projects) and will contribute ideas, and/or enhancement of techniques or methodologies and be expected to take significant initiatives in their work and consult with the Principal Investigator over the details of the project. They will work under supervision and receive academic, pastoral support and guidance which may include specific training, career opportunities and mentoring.

They may contribute to the Department’s teaching, through supervision of projects, overseeing practical classes, or taking small group tutorial classes.

The main focus of the work will involve conducting individual and collaborative research projects under the general guidance of a senior academic or Principal Investigator using new research techniques and methods, analysing and interpreting data and writing up research for publication.

**Main Work Activities**

1. Conduct individual and collaborative research projects to include:
* Using expertise to carry out projects they are working on.
* Contribute to the preparing proposals and applications for external bodies, e.g. for funding and contractual purposes with appropriate support or contribute to the writing of collective bids.
* Use new research techniques and methods.
* Analyse and interpret research data.
* Write up research work of the project and its dissemination through seminar and conferences presentations and publications.
1. Responsible for the management of projects to include:
* Plan and manage own research activity in collaboration with others.
* Manage administrative activities with guidance if required.
* Plan and monitor the work of the project or projects if applicable.
1. Assist with teaching and learning support in own area of study to include:
* Assist in the development of student research skills.
* Assess student knowledge and supervision of projects.
* Supervise and guide final year students.
1. Develop and initiate collaborative working internally and externally to include:
* Build internal contacts and participate in internal networks for exchange of information and to form relationships for future collaboration and to progress their research.
* Develop links and join external networks to share information and identify future potential sources of funding.
* Work with colleagues on joint projects as required.
* Attend and contribute to relevant meetings.
1. Demonstrate evidence of own personal and professional development to include:
* Continually update knowledge and understanding in field or specialism.
* Appraisal, induction and performance reviews.
* Participate in training and development activity.
* Maintain links with professional institutions and other related bodies.
* Collaborate with academic colleagues on areas of shared research interest.

### 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 etc.
* 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 7**

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| **Specification** | **Essential**  | **Desirable** | **Examples Measured by** |
| **Education and Training**Formal qualifications and relevant training | * A PhD in health or social sciences/psychology
 | * Clinical or research experience working with the amputee population
 | Application |
| **Work Experience**Ability to undertake duties of the post | **Evidence of:*** Expertise in health services research
 | * Evidence of collaborating with external colleagues
* Expertise in clinical trials
* An emerging track record in an appropriate research field, including scientific publications, presentations at scientific conferences and contributing to grant applications

.  | ApplicationInterview  |
| **Skills and Knowledge**Includes abilities and intellect | **Evidence of:*** Effective management of resources
* Qualitative interviewing skills
* Data handling and qualitative analysis skills
* Excellent writing skills
 | * Surgical trials experience
* Participation in networks that seek to promote research collaboration
 | ApplicationInterview References |
| **Personal Qualities**Includes any specific physical requirements of the post – (subject to the provisions of the Equality Act 2010) | * An expectation to positively contribute to University activities and initiatives which may include open days, graduation ceremonies, etc., and have a willingness to undertake administrative activities
* Evidence of working in an open and transparent way, providing information and communicating effectively with colleagues
* Evidence of Continuous Professional Development
* Ability to work independently as well as part of a team
* Reliable and well organised
* Ability to manage time and workload effectively
 | • Show evidence of collaborative working, particularly on interdisciplinary activities | ApplicationInterview References |