

**Job Description**

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| Job Title: | Research Assistant in Palliative Care |
| Faculty/Professional Directorate: | Hull York Medical School, Faculty of Health Sciences |
| Subject Group/Team: | Wolfson Palliative Care Research Centre |
| Reporting to: | Prof, Implementation Science |
| Duration: | 36 months, up to 100%WTE |
| Job Family: | Academic |
| Pay Band: | 6 |
| Benchmark Profile: | Research Band 6 |
| DBS Disclosure requirement: | Yes, enhanced |
| Vacancy Reference: | xxxx |

**Details Specific to the Post**

**Background and Context**

Two posts are available on this NIHR-funded study: [*DAMPen-D II: Improving the Detection, Assessment, Management, and Prevention of Delirium in Palliative Care Units: a Cluster Randomised-Controlled Trial, Economic Analysis and Process Evaluation*](https://fundingawards.nihr.ac.uk/award/NIHR161360). The aim of this national study is to evaluate the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of a clinical guideline implementation strategy (CLECC-Pal Delirium) to improve the early detection, management and prevention of delirium among palliative care unit (PCU) in-patients. The study is comprised of three Work Packages (WPs):

* WP1: Study set-up: Ethical approvals, research governance, NHS Digital application, PCUs identification and approvals, engagement of PCUs, and collection of PCU characteristics to enable sample stratification.
* WP2: Cluster RCT:
  + Adaptive ‘implementation-to-target’ cluster randomised-controlled trial with PCUs randomised to CLECC-Pal Delirium or usual practice, with internal pilot
  + Health economic analysis
  + Parallel process evaluation
  + Synthesis of WP2 findings
* WP3: Knowledge exchange: Workshops with public and professional stakeholders to explore how the implementation strategy could be adapted and tailored for use in a range of other community settings.

The study is led by co-Chief Investigators [Prof. Mark Pearson](https://www.hyms.ac.uk/about/people/mark-pearson) and [Prof. Fliss Murtagh](https://www.hyms.ac.uk/about/people/fliss-murtagh), based in the [Wolfson Palliative Care Research Centre](https://www.hyms.ac.uk/research/research-centres-and-groups/wolfson). The Wolfson Centre is part of Hull York Medical School, within the Faculty of Health Sciences at University of Hull and based on the University of Hull campus. As one of the few dedicated palliative care research centres in the UK, the Wolfson Palliative Care Research Centre provides excellent opportunities for career development in palliative care and implementation research. The Centre brings together researchers, health and social care professionals from a range of disciplines, patients, families and members of the public to find and help deliver the best palliative care services and treatments. We conduct palliative care research, and aim to improve quality of life, wellbeing, and reduce inequalities in care. We are committed to involving patients, carers, families and local communities as active partners in shaping our research.

The Centre has a unique and strong collaboration between palliative and primary care. It draws on the skills of researchers, clinical-academics and clinicians across the University and surrounding health care service partners to conduct world class palliative care research, particularly based in the community. The group is headed by Fliss Murtagh, Professor of Palliative Care. Expertise includes Palliative Medicine, Primary Care, Medical Sociology, Health Inequalities, Implementation Science, Global Health, as well as strong links with the Faculty of Health and Social Work. The Wolfson Palliative Care Research Centre is also strengthened by our Research England funded collaboration with the IMPACCT research group at University of Technology, Sydney, Australia.

The post-holder will work in an excellent environment, with a lively, innovative and enthusiastic group, committed to undertaking highest quality research and building research capacity for the future.

To discuss this role informally, please contact: Prof. Mark Pearson, Professor of Implementation Science (e-mail: [mark.pearson@hyms.ac.uk](mailto:mark.pearson@hyms.ac.uk)) or Prof. Fliss Murtagh, Professor of Palliative Care (e-mail: [fliss.murtagh@hyms.ac.uk](mailto:fliss.murtagh@hyms.ac.uk)).

### Specific Duties and Responsibilities of the post

Working closely with the co-Chief Investigators, Lead Research Fellow, and Hull Health Trials Unit, the successful applicants will contribute to ethical, governance and other approvals, support identification and engagement with sites, work on data collection for the project, including extraction of data from clinical records at participating sites (both remotely and in-person), contribute to public involvement activities throughout the study, and contribute to the drafting of outputs, reports (including reports to the Trial Steering Committee and project funder), and academic papers.

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 | * Working towards a PhD in palliative care, health services research or a closely-related discipline (or equivalent experience) * BSc, BA or Masters degree in relevant discipline |  | Application  Interview |
| **Work Experience**  Ability to undertake duties of the post | **Evidence of:**   * Data collection * Analysis and interpretation of results * Drafting research reports, participating in scientific conferences and contributing to drafting scientific publications | * Understanding of care delivery in palliative care settings * Understanding of Implementation Science | Application  Interview |
| **Skills and Knowledge**  Includes abilities and intellect | **Evidence of :**   * Collaborative working and networking to enhance and develop research | * Membership of Departmental Research Committee or equivalent | 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 |  | Application  Interview |