

**Job Description**

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| Job Title: | Research Associate(0.8% WTE) |
| Faculty/Professional Directorate: | Faculty of Health Sciences |
| Subject Group/Team: | School of Psychology and Social Work / Wolfson Palliative Care Research Centre, Hull York Medical School |
| Reporting to: | Professor of Health and Social Work Research |
| Duration: | Fixed Term (30 months) |
| Job Family: | Academic |
| Pay Band: | 7 |
| Benchmark Profile: | Research Band 7 |
| DBS Disclosure requirement: | Yes |
| Vacancy Reference: | xxxxx |

**Details Specific to the Post**

**Background and Context**

This is an excellent opportunity for an ambitious candidate who wants to further their research career at the interface of social sciences, housing, poverty, and palliative care. This post is funded through the ESRC Project: ‘There is no place like home: Exploring dying at home in urban poverty’. The project is led by Dr Kate Woodthorpe, Department of Social and Policy Sciences, University of Bath. Professor Liz Walker and Professor Fliss Murtagh are jointly leading a workstream of the project at the University of Hull.

By 2040 home is expected to overtake hospitals to become the second most common setting for death in England and Wales. But, as the preferred place of death for most people evidence on the impact of housing on dying at home and the provision of domiciliary end of life care services is limited. This is particularly the case for those living in urban poverty who are more likely to experience smaller homes, overcrowding, poor living conditions, and precarious rental tenancies. This 30-month ESRC funded study will make distinctive interdisciplinary contributions to theory, policy, and practice from historical, social, clinical, and policy perspectives. The study is designed around the following work packages which will : (1) provide a detailed analysis on the history and evolution of policy on dying at home (2) identify the meaning of home and the role and impact of housing type and tenure on dying at home from the perspectives of patients, and family members living in urban poverty and service providers (3)make recommendations for policy and practice, identifying potential for improvements in home-based end-of-life care services, health and social care commissioning and the management of housing in areas of poverty. The study will be undertaken across 3 towns and cities in England. Using face-to-face interviews with people with advanced illness reaching the end of their live and their families, family members who have been bereaved and health and social care professionals who care for them. You will be an integral part of an interdisciplinary research project team contributing to all aspects of the study. The study includes leading academics from the University of Hull, Durham University, York University, Cardiff University and the University of Bath.

We are looking for a highly experienced, sensitised and confident qualitative researcher.

To discuss this role informally please contact: Professor Liz Walker (email: [e.walker@hull.ac.uk](mailto:e.walker@hull.ac.uk) or Professor Fliss Murtagh (email: [fliss.murtagh@hyms.ac.uk](mailto:f.murtagh@hull.ac.uk)).

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### Specific Duties and Responsibilities of the Post

* Liaise with study sites and health care organisations such as GP practices and palliative care teams to maximise recruitment.
* Successfully recruit participants for face-to-face interviews across one of the study sites.
* Schedule interviews.
* To be willing to work in the field and travel within the study site to conduct interviews.
* Consent study participants
* Conduct rigorous and detailed research interviews
* Analyse qualitative data ensuring analytical rigour at all times.
* Coordinate and assist with the day-to-day running of the study with oversight from study PI, Hull CIs and study co-applicants.
* Collaborate with patient and public involvement ‘experts by experience’ across the study sites to ensure the relevance and accountability of the study. Ensure that research governance procedures and data protection are adhered to according to local and national guidance.
* Draft (or contribute to) reports for the funder, scientific publications for peer-reviewed journals, and activities to disseminate the work of this study across a variety of audiences (professional, academic and community-based)
* Attend conferences and other events to disseminate findings and engage with policy and third-sector organisations as required.
* Undertake personal development in keeping with the aspiration of being a senior researcher
* Contribute to Faculty and Centre activities as reasonably required to support effective Faculty and Centre working

The above list of responsibilities may not be exhaustive, and the post holder will be required to undertake such tasks and responsibilities as may reasonably be expected within the scope and grading of the post.

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

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 or equivalent experience in a relevant discipline |  | Application  Interview  Other |
| **Work Experience**  Ability to undertake duties of the post | **Evidence of:**   * Experience in project management * Qualitative research experience including demonstrable ability to successfully recruit, consent study participants and collect and analyse data. * An emerging track record in an appropriate research field (social sciences, social work, death studies, long-term conditions or palliative care), including scientific publications, presentations at scientific conferences and contributing to grant applications * Working independently in the research field. * Engaging with a wide range of professional and academic stakeholders and working collaboratively across organisational boundaries | * Experience in patient and public involvement in research particularly in working with diverse ethnic and socially disadvantaged communities * Formation of complex networks and collaborations * Experience of procedures for NHS ethical approvals * Experience of NHS R&D procedures | Application  Interview  Other |
| **Skills and Knowledge**  Includes abilities and intellect | **Evidence of:**   * Knowledge of loss, death, and bereavement, poverty and health inequalities. * High-level qualitative research skills specifically in face-to-face interviews. * High-level qualitative analysis skills with attention to analytical rigour * Excellent written and presentation communication skills * Excellent organisational skills * Excellent interpersonal skills * Participation in networks that seek to promote research collaboration * Good time management skills and ability to plan and implement objectives effectively. | * Knowledge of approaches to developing an organisational research culture * Demonstrated facilitative and negotiating skills | Application  Interview  Other |
| **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 * Show evidence of collaborative working, particularly in interdisciplinary activities. * Evidence of working openly and transparently, providing information and communicating effectively with colleagues * Evidence of Continuous Professional Development |  | Application  Interview  Other |