

**Job Description**

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| Job Title: | Postdoctoral Researcher |
| Faculty/Professional Directorate: | Faculty of Health Science |
| Subject Group/Team: | School of Sport, Exercise and Rehabilitation Sciences |
| Reporting to: | Head of School |
| Duration: | Fixed Term |
| Job Family: | Academic |
| Pay Band: | 7 |
| Benchmark Profile: | Research Band 7 |
| DBS Disclosure requirement: | None |
| Vacancy Reference: |  |

**Details Specific to the Post**

**Background and Context**

Funded by Yorkshire Cancer Research, the **N**orth of **E**ngland **W**omen's **D**iet and **A**ctivit**Y** **A**fter Early **B**reast **C**ancer (NEWDAY-ABC): hybrid intervention-implementation trial will focus on helping overweight women who have been diagnosed with breast cancer to achieve weight loss and maintain a healthy weight following treatment. The research will be carried out at four sites across Yorkshire and Greater Manchester and we are looking to recruit a postdoctoral researcher for 36 months to take a lead role in the day-to-day delivery of the project at the Hull site, while also helping to coordinate activities with other sites involved in this multicentre trial.

Applicants should have expertise and experience of physical activity and/or dietary behaviour change interventions in clinical populations, with an emphasis on weight management and/or health improvement. This post requires a sound appreciation of the challenges associated with lifestyle behaviour modification and empathy for supporting individuals, including those from underrepresented groups, to change their lifestyle behaviours. If you have experience of working in the field of exercise oncology or health behaviour change in respect of weight management, or you have transferable expertise gained from involvement in lifestyle interventions with other populations, we encourage you to apply. The role will require extensive liaison with women treated for breast cancer, clinicians, health professionals and research collaborators. You should be a confident communicator and be capable of conversing effectively with a range of stakeholders. We are looking for someone who is passionate about the research and skilled in helping others to achieve their health ambitions.

The School of Sport, Exercise and Rehabilitation Sciences is one of four Schools within the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Hull. Our team of around 30 academics teach over 400 students, including postgraduates studying for MSc by Research, or PhDs. The availability of state-of-the-art equipment and facilities, supported by dedicated technical staff, provides an outstanding educational experience for students and excellent opportunities to engage in high-quality research and knowledge exchange.

### Specific Duties and Responsibilities of the post

We wish to appoint an excellent researcher with well-developed analytical and communication skills who has the ability to work as an integral and co-operative member of our research group. This is an excellent opportunity to gain research experience in exercise oncology/health behaviour change in people living with and beyond cancer. You will have a PhD or be close to completion in a relevant discipline, with experience of conducting human intervention research and/or clinical trials. Attention to detail in analysing data and preparing reports and other materials for progress meetings and for the presentation of study findings is essential.

For an informal discussion about the post, please contact Professor John Saxton, Email: [john.saxton@hull.ac.uk](mailto:john.saxton@hull.ac.uk)

**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 a relevant discipline, e.g., Exercise Science, Health Behaviour Change or a related science discipline (or close to PhD thesis submission) and a good Bachelor’s degree or Master's level qualification in Exercise Science or a related science discipline. |  | Application  Interview  Other |
| **Work Experience**  Ability to undertake duties of the post | **Evidence of:**   * An emerging track record in an appropriate research field, including scientific publications, presentations at scientific conferences and contributing to grant applications |  | Application  Interview  Other |
| **Skills and Knowledge**  Includes abilities and intellect | **Evidence of:**   * Sound knowledge of exercise science as it relates to clinical populations * An understanding of the challenges associated with lifestyle behaviour modification and empathy for supporting individuals, including those from underrepresented groups, to change their lifestyle behaviours. * Sound knowledge of research methods appropriate for human intervention trials and experience of conducting human intervention research, gained through previous research projects at undergraduate and/or postgraduate level. * Knowledge of ethical issues surrounding human intervention research. | * Sound knowledge of ethical issues surrounding human intervention research * Experience of working within multidisciplinary research teams and/or clear ability to contribute as an integral and collaborative team member. | Application  Interview  Other |
| **Personal Qualities**  Includes any specific physical requirements of the post – (subject to the provisions of the Equality Act 2010) | * Willingness to adapt working patterns if demanded by process parameters. |  | Application  Interview  Other |