Research Fellow x 2
Centre for Health Economics

Closing date: 26 November 2017
Interview date: to be confirmed
Vacancy reference: 6132
INTRODUCTION

As part of ongoing efforts to progress the global health economics related activities at the Centre for Health Economics (CHE), we wish to appoint two Research Fellows at Grade 6/7 to work on a long-term project recently awarded through the RCUK Collective Fund ‘Growing Capability’ Award titled: GCRF Thanzi la Onse (Health of All), in collaboration with project partners in the UK, Malawi and Uganda. The project centres on supporting health care resource allocation decisions in sub-Saharan Africa, and involves collaboration with specialists in epidemiology and modelling, as well as politics and governance.

The appointees should have strong quantitative skills and experience in health economics or development economics, as well as an interest and/or experience of working on health care issues facing low- and middle-income countries (in particular in sub-Saharan Africa).

The roles will involve working closely with research collaborators in sub-Saharan Africa; one Research Fellow will be based at the Health Economics & Policy Unit (HEPU) of the School of Public Health & Family Medicine, College of Medicine at the University of Malawi (Lilongwe campus) or Public Health Institute of Malawi; the other will be based predominately in CHE but with frequent visits to the MRC/UVRI Uganda Research Unit on AIDS. The Malawi-based Research Fellow will be required to attend annual project meetings and training sessions in the UK. Each Research Fellow will join a dedicated team of researchers in economics, epidemiology and health policy, and support the strengthening of health economics capacity within their host organisations.

Please indicate in your application which of the two positions you are applying for (we welcome applications to either/both locations).

Further information:

- A budget has been allocated to cover travel costs to/from the UK/Malawi & Uganda
- Prior to commencing employment, a briefing session covering key issues such as taxation and pension arrangements, for example, will be arranged.
**Main purpose of the role**

- To conduct research under the supervision of senior colleagues and to contribute to the production of research.
- To assist in the identification and development of potential areas of research and the development of proposals for independent or collaborative research projects.

**Key responsibilities**

*Role holders will be required to undertake some or all of the duties below:*

- To conduct individual and collaborative research projects, duties to include: analysis and interpretation of research data; use of appropriate research techniques and methods; writing up of research results and dissemination through publications, seminar and conference presentations and public engagement and outreach activities; contributing to the identification of possible new areas of research.
- To contribute to the preparation of research proposals and applications to external bodies.
- To undertake appropriate organisational and administrative activities connected to the research project, including conference organisation, and the development of promotional or educational material including website maintenance and development.
- To develop and initiate collaborative working internally and externally, duties to include: the building of internal contacts and participation in internal networks; collaboration with colleagues on joint projects as required; participation in and identification of external networks in order to share information and identify potential opportunities for collaboration and possible sources of funding; attendance at and contribution to relevant meetings.
- To provide guidance to other staff and students, as required, as well as coordinating the work of small research teams.
- The roles will require regular travel to Malawi and Uganda.

**In addition, at Grade 7:**

- Supervise the research activities of less experienced colleagues, providing expert advice and guidance.
- Participate actively in the planning and management of research projects more generally (e.g. communication with relevant stakeholders).
- Lead on or contribute to the leadership of the production of research outputs and research outcomes.
- Undertake appropriate managerial and administrative tasks in connection with the research activity.
- Provide student supervision and mentorship.

### JOB DESCRIPTION

**At a glance**

**Salary**
- Grade 6 - £31,604 - £38,832 a year
- Grade 7 - £38,832 - £47,722 a year

**Hours of work**
- Full time, 37 hours per week

**Contract type**
- Grade 6 - fixed-term contract (36 months)
- Grade 7 - open contract

**Based at**
- Malawi post: Health Economics & Policy Unit of the College of Medicine in the Public Health Institute of Malawi, Lilongwe, Malawi
- York/Uganda post: CHE with regular visits to the MRC/UVRI Uganda Research Unit on AIDS
PERSON SPECIFICATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qualifications</th>
<th>Grade 6</th>
<th>Grade 7</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Masters degree in economics, with a significant focus on health economics and/or development economics</td>
<td>Essential</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<tr>
<td>PhD or equivalent experience in economics, with a significant focus on health economics</td>
<td>Desirable</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<tr>
<th>Knowledge</th>
<th>Grade 6</th>
<th>Grade 7</th>
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<tr>
<td>Knowledge in relevant areas of economics to engage in high quality research</td>
<td>Essential</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<tr>
<td>Knowledge of a range of economics research techniques and methodologies</td>
<td>Essential</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<tr>
<td>Has research expertise in an area that will complement and enhance the department and GCRF Thanzi al Onse programme’s research strategy and goals</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<tr>
<th>Skills, abilities and competencies</th>
<th>Grade 6</th>
<th>Grade 7</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Highly developed communication skills: ability to write up research work for publication in high profile journals, make presentations at conferences, and engage in public dissemination</td>
<td>Essential</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ability to develop research objectives, projects and proposals for own and joint research, with the assistance of a mentor if required</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ability to identify sources of funding and contribute to the process of securing funds, with collaborators if required</td>
<td>Desirable</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ability to lead and/or take responsibility for a small research project or identified parts of a large project</td>
<td>Essential</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ability to supervise the work of others, for example in research teams, projects or students</td>
<td>Desirable</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ability to engage with project stakeholders</td>
<td>Essential</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<tr>
<td>Well-developed analytical skills including strong quantitative background</td>
<td>Essential</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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# PERSON SPECIFICATION

## Experience

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Grade 6</th>
<th>Grade 7</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conducting economic analysis (e.g. economic evaluation) to inform health policy in a low- and middle-income country setting</td>
<td>Desirable</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carrying out both independent and collaborative research</td>
<td>Essential</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<tr>
<td>Writing up and publishing research</td>
<td>Desirable</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<tr>
<td>Developing and/or delivering training/teaching materials</td>
<td>Desirable</td>
<td>Desirable</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evidence of active participation in the planning and advancement of collaborative research projects</td>
<td>Desirable</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<tr>
<td>Successful management of research projects including supervision of the work of others and providing expert advice and guidance to teams and students</td>
<td>Desirable</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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## Personal attributes

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attribute</th>
<th>Grade 6</th>
<th>Grade 7</th>
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<tr>
<td>Interest in and enthusiasm for GCRF Thanzi la Onse subject matter, and commitment to advancing the field of global health economics</td>
<td>Essential</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attention to detail and commitment to high quality</td>
<td>Essential</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ability to work as part of a team and also to work independently using own initiative, to plan and prioritise own work in order to meet deadlines</td>
<td>Essential</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<tr>
<td>Willingness to work proactively with colleagues in other work areas/institutions</td>
<td>Essential</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commitment to personal development and updating of knowledge and skills</td>
<td>Essential</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<tr>
<td>Willingness to travel to sub-Saharan Africa regularly for research and training activities</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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THE DEPARTMENT

Centre for Health Economics

The Centre for Health Economics (CHE) was established at the University of York in 1983, and was one of the world’s first research institutes dedicated to the study of the economics of health and health care. It rapidly established a leading international reputation, and is now one of the world’s largest health economics research centres. In a ranking of the top 100 institutions in health economics in the world, the University of York has been ranked 7th and the highest European institution.

We have a 30 year track record in delivering high quality policy-relevant research which makes a difference to society. We maintain high scientific standards and place a premium on the rigour and quality of our work. Our mission is to be a globally recognised research centre, committed to the development and application of the discipline of economics in order to promote health and wellbeing through the effective, efficient and equitable use of scarce resources.

Research:

The defining characteristics of CHE’s research are:

- **Methods rigour:** CHE’s research is distinguished by a major focus on the development and application of advanced methods and analytical techniques to address important and complex questions.
- **Policy focus:** We aim to inform and influence health policy and practice, nationally and internationally.
- **Engagement:** We work alongside decision-makers, practitioners and academic colleagues to prioritise, design and deliver timely research which is communicated effectively to relevant users in accessible formats, including a range of teaching and training activities.
- **Excellence:** We have a long track record of producing high quality research, spanning 30 years, within a leading UK institution and in one of the world’s top 100 universities.

The core research themes covered by CHE are:

- Economic evaluation of health technologies
- Econometric methods
- Equity in health and health care
- Health and social care
- Health policy
- Global health
- Public Health

Further details of the projects and topics within the core themes can be found on our website: [http://www.york.ac.uk/che/research/](http://www.york.ac.uk/che/research/)

Global health:

CHE’s activities in the economics of global health have recently expanded and developed. The research spans across a range of themes. Recent and ongoing externally funded
research includes, for instance, the estimation of relevant cost-effectiveness thresholds in low and middle income countries (LMICs), health benefits package design, economic evaluation of HIV policies, evaluating investments in new product development, the evaluation of fiscal policies to improve diet, analysis of levels and determinants of efficiency in health systems, and the impacts of development assistance for health on domestic resource allocation and health outcomes. Our work in these and other areas is in collaboration with other academic groups in the UK and overseas and policy institutes such as, amongst others, the World Health Organization, the World Bank, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

The aim of the global health economics work is to further diversify the research to encompass the full range of research areas in CHE. Further details on global health research: http://www.york.ac.uk/che/research/global-health/

GCRF Thanzi la Onse (Health of All) programme:

Thanzi la Onse (TLO) is funded through the RCUK Collective Fund ‘Growing Capability’ Award, and led by CHE with partners based in the UK, Malawi and Uganda. The primary objective of the programme is to improve population health and reduce health inequalities by enhancing the efficiency and equity of health care provision through data-informed prioritisation of resource allocation in low-income settings.

Research activities fall under three research themes: Epidemiology & Modelling – led by Imperial and University Colleges London; Health Economics – led by CHE; and Politics & Governance – led by the Overseas Development Institute and York’s Department of Politics. The successful candidates will contribute to the economics theme, take a key role in a project in one or more of the following areas: Industrial Organisation applied to health systems and institutions; applying and developing the methods of economic evaluation to policy challenges in sub-Saharan Africa; analysis on the equity implications of resource allocation policy. More information: https://www.york.ac.uk/che/news/2017/new_gcrf_funding/ and http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/documents/gcrf-calls/growcallbooklet37finaljuly2017-pdf/

Our impact:

CHE’s researchers play a leading role in many national and international societies and make high-profile presentations at scientific meetings across the world. CHE has a very strong policy impact both nationally and internationally. Within the UK, examples include work at the most senior level with policy formulation in the Department of Health and its devolved equivalents, HM Treasury, the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence, the Office for National Statistics, Cabinet Office and Home Office.

Internationally, its researchers have worked at a senior level with many national ministries and health care agencies, in countries in every continent, and with international organizations including the World Health Organisation, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the European Commission and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Staff at CHE publish in the leading international journals in their field, and the two leading health economics journals are edited from York.

The world leading research undertaken by the Centre for Health Economics has been recognised by the University of York’s ranking as equal 7th in the country for Public Health, Health Services and Primary Care in the national assessment of the quality and impact of research in the 2014 Research Excellence Framework (REF). CHE was part of the submission made jointly with the Department of Health Sciences, the Centre for Reviews and Dissemination and the Hull-York Medical School. The results published on 18 December 2014, showed that 83% of the research submitted was rated as world leading or internationally excellent. The impact of our research on society and citizens was also rated equal 7th, and we were ranked equal first for research environment, one that is conducive to producing research of world-leading quality, in terms of vitality and sustainability. The University of York as a whole performed well in the latest REF, being ranked 14th overall and 10th for the impact of its research.

The University of York offers scope for many fruitful collaborations and CHE has strong links, via joint interests, research projects and appointments, with several departments including the Department of Economics and Related Studies, the Department of Health Sciences, the Centre for Reviews and Dissemination, the Hull-York Medical School, the Department of Biology and the Social Policy Research Unit. In 2007, the University of York was awarded the Queen’s Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education, in recognition of the contribution health economics research has made to the way society thinks about health and health care over the last 25 years.

Teaching and training:

CHE attracts over 300 people a year from all over the world to be trained in the methods developed by our researchers. The York Expert Workshops in the socio-economic evaluation of medicines has been running for over 20 years and comprises three residential workshops aimed at decision-makers and academics: https://www.yorkac.uk/che/courses/york-summer-workshops/. We run a further three courses focusing on methods and applied research methods: https://www.york.ac.uk/che/courses/

There are currently 8 PhD students based at CHE, supervised by our staff and registered either in the Department of Economics and Related Studies or in the Department of Health Sciences. We run an active visitor programme, hosting around
20 visitors each year from all over the world and offering the Alan Williams Fellowship programme to support visits from early and mid-career researchers.

**Athena SWAN:**
At CHE we strive to provide a supportive and family friendly work environment and to offer equal opportunities to all staff members. We have an Athena SWAN bronze award which recognises our commitment to good practice in recruiting, retaining and supporting the careers of women. We will continue to build on this success by further improving our processes and ensure fair, flexible, accessible and transparent working conditions for all members of staff.

See: [https://www.york.ac.uk/che/equality-and-diversity/#tab-2](https://www.york.ac.uk/che/equality-and-diversity/#tab-2)

Further information about the department is available at: [http://www.york.ac.uk/che/](http://www.york.ac.uk/che/)

The posts will be based within the following research institutes in Malawi and Uganda, respectively:

**Health Economics & Policy Unit (HEPU) of the School of Public Health & Family Medicine, College of Medicine at the University of Malawi**

The School of Public Health & Family Medicine was established in 2013 with the aim of becoming a public and Global Health Center of excellence in training, research and outreach in Malawi as well as the SADC region. The School has three departments namely: Public Health, Family Medicine, and Health Systems & Policy where HEPU is based.

The School offers an undergraduate degree in Health Management and taught postgraduate degree programmes in Masters in Public Health, Masters of Science in Global Health Implementation, MBA Health Systems, Masters of Science in Epidemiology and Masters of Medicine in Family Medicine.

The School also has postgraduate research degree programs namely Masters of Philosophy (MPhil) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degrees. The school will next year be introducing Masters of Business Administration (MBA) in Health Systems.

The School has vibrant research and outreach activities with strong international collaborative links. Research entities closely linked to the school include the Centre of Bioethics in East and Central Africa (CEBESA), Centre of Reproductive Health (CRH), Nutrition Research group and Training and Research Unit of Excellence (TRUE) and the newly established Health Economics and Policy Unit (HEPU). The School with its research entities work very closely with the Ministry of Health particularly with the specific disease control programs in malaria, HIV, TB, reproductive health, nutrition, systems strengthening, quality improvement and provision of evidence for policy making.

The Health Economics and Policy Unit (HEPU) seeks to partner with the Malawi Public Health Institute, Department of Planning in the Ministry of Health and University of York’s Center of Health Economics (CHE) in providing evidence for policy making and to do research which is responsive to the Malawi national research agenda, and also to undertake multi-national collaborative research.

We welcome you to visit our departments to learn more about School of Public Health and Family Medicine at College of Medicine: [www.medcol.mw](http://www.medcol.mw)

**Public Health Institute of Malawi (PHIM)**

PHIM’s mission is to provide leadership in disease surveillance, research, prevention and controls as well as to generate information that informs policy and practice in public health service delivery.

The Research and Development Unit is a technical arm of the PHIM mandated to conduct and coordinate research activities in the country, set a national research agenda and provide administrative support to the NHSRC Secretariat. It provides direction and support to essential health research in Malawi.

**The main duties involved include the following:**

- Strengthen leadership and coordination of research activities and infrastructure
- Improve the availability and quality of health information and evidence
- Improve dissemination and sharing and use of information, evidence and knowledge
- Create a critical mass of human resources for health research (HRHR)
- Improve financial support towards health research

The Disease Surveillance, Prevention, Response and Control Division is mandated to oversee the epidemiological and diseases control programmes in Malawi. It has the following sections:

**Epidemiology Unit:** The main functions of the unit include; conducting disease surveillance and International Health Regulations (IHR) activities using the Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (IDSR) strategy, outbreak investigation and response in collaboration with the public health reference laboratory, conduct HIV and Syphilis sentinel
surveillance, conduct HIV drug resistance survey, provide training to health workers on surveillance and data management and supports disease programs in conducting national surveys.

Disease Control Program (Malaria, HIV/AIDS, TB, Schistosomiasis, Trypanosomiasis, Skin & Leprosy, Onchocerciasis, Lymphatic Filariasis, Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI), and Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI)): The main functions are to coordinate implementation of disease control interventions, develop clinical guidelines, mobilise resources, develop training curricula, and conduct monitoring and evaluation activities. The disease control programmes collaborate with the Epidemiology Unit and National Public Health Reference Laboratory in conducting national surveys, disease outbreak investigation and response among others.

Further information about PHIM is available at: http://malawipublichealth.org/

MRC/UVRI Uganda Research Unit on AIDS

The mission of the MRC/UVRI Unit is to conduct research to add knowledge and improve the control of infectious and non-communicable diseases both in Uganda, in Africa and globally; to contribute to the translation of research findings into policy and practice; and to build capacity for research in Africa.

The MRC/UVRI Research Unit was established in 1989 to improve the understanding and control of the HIV epidemic in Uganda and globally, following a request from the Uganda Government to the United Kingdom (UK) Government. Initially focusing on the epidemic in rural settings, the research activities expanded to other areas of Uganda building on a multidisciplinary approach established from the start, from basic science through to public health policy. In 2005 the MRC Programme was upgraded to a MRC research Unit.

The main research activities are located in Masaka, Kalungu, Kampala and Wakiso districts including the peri-urban areas of Entebbe. Research is also undertaken on the shores and islands of Lake Victoria.

There are six research Programmes, each led by a senior scientist:
1) HIV Intervention Programme which covers two broad areas: a) Prevent acquisition of new infections in general and in key populations; and b) Improve survival and quality of life among those infected;
2) HIV and Cancer Epidemiology Programme;
3) Social aspects of health across the life course Programme: the aim of the Programme is to further our understanding of the social aspects of health and wellbeing for specified individuals and populations to inform the design, implementation and evaluation of interventions, as well as contribute to policy development; the Programme includes health economics;
4) Pathogen Genomics, Phenotype and Immunity Programme;
5) Vaccines and Immunomodulation Programme; and
6) Non-Communicable Disease Programme.

Existing support services are: Operations (Finance, Procurement, Administration, HR, Engineering and Estates, IT, Transport, Health and Safety and Security); Bioinformatics brings together this expanding interdisciplinary field of science; Grant Support Office supports scientists, from searching for funding opportunities to providing final reports to funders; Research Compliance Office supporting the many clinical and laboratory studies that require GCP and GCLP compliance, Quality Assurance (QA) and other regulatory requirements. The Office assists investigators with protocol development, regulatory approvals, and all the other complex aspects relating to research in human subjects. Training and Career Development streamlines our training and career development.

Further information about MRC UVRI is available at: http://www.mrcuganda.org/
THE UNIVERSITY

Founded on principles of excellence, equality and opportunity for all, the University of York opened in 1963 with just 230 students. In 2017 it is the home of more than 17,000 students across more than 30 academic departments and research centres. Since opening over fifty years ago, we have become one of the world’s leading universities and a member of the prestigious Russell Group.

We are consistently recognised as one of the leading Higher Education Institutes and one of just six post-war universities which appear in the world top 100 (2013-14) and 15th in the Times & Sunday Times league table (2016). The University of York has won six Times Higher Education (THE) Awards and five Queen’s Anniversary Prizes.

The University is proud of its association with Athena SWAN, holding 12 awards in support of gender equality, representation and success for all, with gold awards for Chemistry and Biology and a University-wide bronze award.

Of 154 universities that took part in the Research Excellence Framework (REF) in 2014, The University of York ranked 14th overall and 10th for the impact of our research. The University is consistently in the top ten UK research universities and attracts over £60m a year of funding from research alone.

Our vision is to make the University of York a world leader in the creation of knowledge through fundamental and applied research, the sharing of knowledge by teaching students from varied backgrounds and the application of knowledge for the health, prosperity and well-being of people and society.

We have a thriving international community and are committed to providing staff moving to York with as much support as possible through our Relocation Package and Welcome Officers.

The University aims to offer a nurturing and supportive environment as an employer. Flexible working hours, nursery facilities, childcare vouchers, cycle to work scheme, generous holidays and an attractive pension scheme all make the University of York one of the region’s leading employers.

For further information please visit our employee benefit pages.

THE UNIVERSITY
The City of York

Internationally acclaimed for its rich heritage and historic architecture, York's bustling streets are filled with visitors from all over the world. Within its medieval walls you will find the iconic gothic Minster, Clifford's Tower and the Shambles - just a few of the many attractions.

But York isn't just a great place to visit - it's also a great place to live and work. While nourishing a vibrant cosmopolitan atmosphere, York still maintains the friendly sense of community unique to a small city.

Visit [www.visityork.org](http://www.visityork.org) for more information on the city of York.

Shopping, culture and entertainment

York boasts specialist and unique boutiques but also all the high street stores on its busy shopping streets. Alongside them you will find cinemas, theatres, an opera house, art galleries, a vast range of restaurants, live music venues and clubs. York is particularly renowned for its multitude of pubs and bars, from the modern to the medieval.

Housing and schools

Whether you choose to live close to the city, in one of the surrounding villages or further afield, you will find a wide range of housing within comfortable distance of York and the University. For families, the area has a range of excellent schools both in the state and independent sector.

Great location

York is one of Britain's best-connected cities. Halfway between London and Edinburgh on the East Coast mainline, on intercity trains you can reach London King's Cross in less than two hours and Edinburgh in two and a half hours. York is also well served by road links, and it is easily accessible from the A1, M1 and the M62.

For those travelling from overseas, Manchester Airport is two hours away and Heathrow Airport just three and a half. Flights from nearby Leeds Bradford Airport provide easy access to mainland Europe. By Eurostar from London St Pancras, Paris is just over six hours away.

Yorkshire

The Lonely Planet guide recently declared Yorkshire the third best region in the world to visit. There is something to cater to every taste, whether it be the rugged landscapes of the Moors or the Dales, the picturesque seaside towns of Scarborough and Robin Hoods Bay, the gothic architecture of Whitby or the vibrancy of cosmopolitan Leeds.
**Apply online**
- Go to [https://jobs.york.ac.uk](https://jobs.york.ac.uk)
- Find this job using reference 6132
- Complete the online application form

You will need to submit your completed application by midnight (local UK time) on 26 November 2017

**What will I need?**
You will need to upload:
- your CV
- a letter describing how you meet the requirements of the job

You will also need details of 2 referees.

**Help and assistance**
Direct any informal queries to paul.revill@york.ac.uk or trish.smith@york.ac.uk

If you have any questions about your application, contact the HR Services team:

recruitment@york.ac.uk

+44 (0) 1904 324835