Research Fellow
Centre for Health Economics

Closing date: 23 May 2018
Interview date: 22 June 2018
Vacancy reference: 6605
INTRODUCTION

The Centre for Health Economics (CHE) at the University of York continues to develop its research in economic evaluation and health technology assessment (HTA). We are expanding and complementing our existing research activity in this field through the development of a research programme in the areas of precision, personalised and person-centred medicine with a portfolio of high quality and rigorous methods and applied research of national and international policy relevance (https://www.york.ac.uk/che/research/teehta/personalised-medicine/).

The University of York wishes to appoint a Research Fellow at Grade 6 (ref ) to work on a collaborative agenda of research jointly developed by colleagues based at CHE and the Department of Health Sciences. The successful candidate will be based within the Team for Economic Evaluation and Health Technology Assessment (TEEHTA) at CHE. However, it is expected that the candidate will collaborate in a number of projects and initiatives, within the above research programme. The aforementioned agenda of research has a general focus on cost effectiveness analysis for policy making, the use of decision analytic modelling, econometric analysis of individual patient data, Bayesian evidence synthesis, value of information analysis and preference elicitation methods. These techniques will be applied to generate health economic evidence to inform the development and evaluation of medical technologies for precision, personalised, and person-centred healthcare. This may involve the application of mixed methods research, which includes collecting, analysing and integrating quantitative (e.g. statistical analysis and simulation modelling) and qualitative (e.g. focus groups) data.

Examples of collaborative projects the group has recently been awarded in this area include:

- National Institute for Health Research (NIHR)  
  - Improving the Wellbeing of People Living with Opioid Treated Chronic Pain (I-WOTCH)
  - Facilitating informed decision-making in haematology

- Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC)  
  - The Wearable Clinic: Connecting Health, Self and Care

- European Commission (H2020 Programme)  
  - Healthcare Alliance for Resourceful Medicines Offensive against Neoplasms in Hematology (HARMONY)
  - Providing the right care to the right patient with Myelodysplastic Syndrome at the right time (MDS-RIGHT)

The appointed Research Fellow will be expected to start as soon as possible. The vacancy is available on a full-time fixed term basis for 22 months.
The research fellow will contribute to research in economic evaluation, undertaking existing projects and also helping to develop new project proposals and related activities. The contribution expected is described below:

- 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

In addition, the person appointed may be required to undertake some, or all of the duties outlined 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
- 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
## PERSON SPECIFICATION

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<th>Qualifications</th>
<th>Essential / Desirable</th>
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<tr>
<td>A Master’s level qualification in economics, health economics or other quantitative subject such as applied mathematics, operational research or applied statistics</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>PhD in economics, health economics, relevant quantitative area or equivalent experience</td>
<td>Desirable</td>
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<th>Knowledge</th>
<th>Essential / Desirable</th>
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<tr>
<td>Knowledge and understanding of economic evaluation or a strong interest in learning about this</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Knowledge of a range of research techniques and methodologies for the evaluation of interventions</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Knowledge of statistics and/or econometric analysis</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<th>Skills, abilities and competencies</th>
<th>Essential / Desirable</th>
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<tr>
<td>Evidence of strong quantitative skills</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Skills in use of spreadsheets and statistical software packages such as Stata or R</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Ability to write up research work for publication in high profile journals and engage in public dissemination</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Competency to conduct individual and collaborative research projects</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Evidence of an ability to use a range of economic tools to inform decisions and policy relating to a regional or local health setting</td>
<td>Desirable</td>
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<td>Good communication skills to engage effectively with a wide ranging audience, both orally and in writing, using a range of media</td>
<td>Desirable</td>
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<td>Ability to develop research objectives, projects and proposals for own and joint research, with the assistance of a supervisor if required</td>
<td>Desirable</td>
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<td>Ability to identify sources of funding and contribute to the process of securing funds, with collaborators if required</td>
<td>Desirable</td>
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<td>Ability to make presentations at conferences or exhibit work in other appropriate events</td>
<td>Desirable</td>
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<th>Experience</th>
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<td>Experience of carrying out both independent and collaborative research</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Ability to work as part of a team and also to work independently using own initiative</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Experience in developing, evaluating and reporting decision models, regression analysis results</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Experience in analysing large individual patient level datasets</td>
<td>Desirable</td>
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<td>Experience in health economics and outcome research</td>
<td>Desirable</td>
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<td>Experience of publishing in peer reviewed journals or other outlets</td>
<td>Desirable</td>
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<td>Experience of writing up research work for publication</td>
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## PERSON SPECIFICATION

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<th>Personal attributes</th>
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<tr>
<td>Interest in and enthusiasm for economic evaluation</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Interest in the evaluation of precision, personalised and person-centred interventions</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Attention to detail and commitment to high quality research</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Collaborative ethos</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Positive attitude to colleagues and students</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Willingness to work proactively with colleagues in other work areas/institutions</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Ability to plan and prioritise own work in order to meet deadlines, including using initiative to plan research programmes</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Commitment to personal development and updating of knowledge and skills</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Commitment to equality and diversity</td>
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THE DEPARTMENT

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 is ranked 7th and is the highest ranking European institution¹. CHE has a 30 year track record in delivering high quality policy-relevant research which makes a difference to society. CHE maintains high scientific standards and place a premium on the rigour and quality of our work. Its 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 to influence health policy and practice, nationally and internationally.

Engagement: We work alongside decision-makers, practitioners and academic colleagues to prioritise, to design and to 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
- Health and social care
- Econometric methods
- Equity in health and health care
- Health policy
- Global health

Further details of the topics within the core themes can be found on our website:
http://www.york.ac.uk/che/research/
Economic evaluation and health technology assessment

The research fellow will work in CHE’s Team for Economic Evaluation and Health Technology Assessment (TEEHTA), which is the largest programme of work in the Centre. TEEHTA works on a number of major research programmes as detailed below.

Economic Evaluation of Health and Care Interventions Policy Research Unit (EEPRU) for Department of Health

The Department of Health’s Policy Research Unit in Economic Evaluation of Health and Care Interventions is a 7 years programme of work that started in January 2011. Funded by the Department of Health’s Policy Research Programme, EEPRU is a collaboration between the School of Health and Related Research, University of Sheffield and the Centre for Health Economics, University of York. The aim of the unit is to assist policy makers in the Department of Health to improve the allocation of resources in health and social care. The Unit provides: 1) a fast and responsive programme of work to meet the Department’s shorter-term requirements; 2) a broad programme of applied work to meet their medium to longer-term needs; and 3) methods development to better meet the challenges of conducting economic evaluation in this area. The Unit meets these aims by applying the highest methods standards appropriate to meeting the needs of policy makers in a flexible, timely and relevant way.

EEPRU has a work programme that covers a range of applied topics including mental health and innovation, as well as methods themes relating to outcomes, individualised health care and intersectoral effects. See http://www.eepru.org.uk/ for further details.

Technology Assessment Reviews for the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence

Funded by the NIHR, this is a programme of work, in collaboration with the Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) at York, to undertake a series of technology assessment reviews each year for the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE). This includes critical reviews of manufacturer submissions under the Single Technology Appraisal process; review, synthesis and modelling under the Multiple Technology Appraisal process and the diagnostic assessment programme; and a range of other health technology assessment work not directly related to NICE’s decision-making.

Collaboration in Leadership for Applied Health Research and Care (CLARHC)

Funded by NIHR over the next five years, CLARHC comprises a number of “themes”. The Centre for Health Economics, in collaboration with University of Sheffield, contributes to the Health Economics and Outcome Measurement (HEOM) theme. The CLARHC HEOM theme comprises a programme of work
which aims to build collaborations with other CLAHRC themes and NHS partners and enhance their capacity in health economics. It will also generate rigorous economic evidence for decision making. This is likely to incorporate the use of economic models as well as identifying existing data sources that could be used in these models.

Other programmes, project work and activities

- CHE is part of the International Decision Support Initiative, a collaboration with partners including NICE International, the Centre for Global Development (USA) and the Health Intervention and Technology Assessment Programme (Thailand). Funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Department for International Development, the iDSI supports resource allocation decision making in low and middle income countries through a range of activities including methods research, training and policy analysis. See http://www.nice.org.uk/About/What-we-do/NICE-International/NICE-International-projects/International-Decision-Support-Initiative for further details.

- TEEHTA is part of the NICE Decision Support Unit, a collaborative group providing analytic advice and support to NICE which also involves colleagues at the Universities of Sheffield and Leicester. See http://www.nicedsu.org.uk/ for further details.

- CHE is a key partner in the HIV Modelling Consortium. This is funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and aims to help improve scientific support for decision making by co-coordinating a wide range of research activities in mathematically modelling the HIV epidemic. See http://www.hivmodelling.org/ for further details.

- TEEHTA contributes to York’s involvement in a programme of work on Research Design and Support (RDS) funded by the NIHR. The overarching aim of the RDS is to increase the volume and quality of successful grant applications for NIHR funding. The NIHR RDS for Yorkshire & the Humber has its main bases at the Universities of Sheffield, Leeds and York. See http://www.rds-yh.nihr.ac.uk/.

- There are a large number of individually-funded research projects with a health economics component funded by organisations such as the NIHR, the European Commission and the EPSRC. Existing projects relevant to the current advert include:
  
  ◦ I-WOTCH: Improving the Wellbeing of people with Opioid Treated CHronic Pain (collaboration with the University of Warwick, the Queen Mary University of London and the James Cook University Hospital, Middlesbrough.  Funder: NIHR).
  ◦ The Wearable Clinic: Connecting Health, Self and Care (Collaboration with Cerner Corporation, NHS Digital, Health Innovation Manchester, Manchester Mental Health & Social Care, Manchester mHealth Ecosystem, UK Renal Registry, and Withings SAS.  Funder: EPSRC)
  ◦ The Economics of Personalised Medicine (collaboration with the Luxemburg Institute of Health.  Funder: LIH)
  ◦ MDS-RIGHT: Providing the right care to the right patient with MyeloDysplastic Syndrome at the right time (a collaborative project with various European partners.  Funder: European Commission).
  ◦ Healthcare Alliance for Resourceful Medicines Offensive against Neoplasms in HematologY – HARMONY (a private-public collaborative project with a large number of European partner.  Funder: European Commission).

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 productive 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.
THE DEPARTMENT

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 (NICE), 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. In 2007, the University of York was awarded the Queen’s Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education, in recognition of the contribution its research in health economics 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 Summer 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. We run a further four courses focusing on methods and applied research methods. In collaboration with the Department of Economics and Related Studies, and the York Health Economics Consortium, we also run Distance Learning Programmes in Health Economics including an MSc in Economic Evaluation for Health Technology Assessment. There are currently 11 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 international visitors each year and offering the Alan Williams Fellowship programme to support visits from early and mid-career researchers.

CHE is part of the recently established Research Centre for Social Sciences: a £2million investment for research training at disciplinary and interdisciplinary levels, offering dedicated facilities for research and provision for workshops, visitors, and conferences. It is the home of the ESRC Doctoral Training Centre which houses around 70 PhD students as well as associated research groups. The centre brings together 11 departments and centres across the social sciences at York to provide a focal point for research. CHE has access to excellent research infrastructure, including lecture theatres, seminar rooms, and focus group rooms with audio-visual recording facilities. High quality computing facilities dedicated to the social sciences are available for computationally intensive analysis and a computing lab is available for training and related events.

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.

Further information: http://www.york.ac.uk/che/equality-and-diversity/
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.
Attractive workplace

Centred around the picturesque village of Heslington on the edge of the city of York, our colleges are set in an attractive landscaped campus. York enjoys a safe, friendly atmosphere with facilities including bars, shops, theatres and concert halls all within easy walking distance.

The University has undergone an unprecedented period of expansion and renewal since 2000. We have invested in twenty new buildings on the original campus and have completed the first and second phases of a £750m campus expansion. Our investment in new colleges, teaching and learning spaces, laboratories, research facilities and a new sports village mean there has never been a better time to join us.

During this period of change we’ve worked hard to retain our friendly, informal and collegiate atmosphere, which is important to our core values of inclusivity and interdisciplinarity.

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 CITY AND THE REGION

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 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
- Find this job using reference 6605
- Complete the online application form

You will need to submit your completed application by midnight (local UK time) on 23 May 2018

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 Prof Andrea Manca, Professor In Health Economics, tel. 01904 321430, email: andrea.manca@york.ac.uk or Trish Smith, email: 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