ASTRA/IMPACT Research Fellow in Applied Health Research

Department of Health Sciences

Closing date: 23 July 2018

Interview date: To be confirmed

Vacancy reference: 6761
The University of York and Hull York Medical School have an ambitious programme to expand global applied health research, with significant new investment in research posts, including a Chair, Senior Lecturers, a Lecturer and Research and Doctoral Fellowships in Global Health. The programme has been boosted by recent success in securing two NIHR Global Health Research Groups, focusing on smokeless tobacco (ASTRA) and mental and physical comorbidity (IMPACT).

This is an exciting opportunity to join one of these Groups and develop your own career in global health research. We are looking to appoint two research fellows. You should have experience in quantitative data analyses, be highly motivated and be able to work as part of a multi-disciplinary team with a diverse range of organisations in the UK and South Asia.

Both posts offer the opportunity to be part of a large and successful multi-disciplinary Department, renowned for its methodological expertise and commitment to policy and practice relevant research. You will conduct high quality statistical analyses of relevant studies, undertake statistical programming for checking, manipulating, summarising and analysing data, and contribute to the development of research proposals. You will be encouraged to undertake dissemination of your research through publications, seminars and conference presentations and contribute to the identification of possible new areas of research. Attention to detail and a commitment to high quality work is essential, as is the ability to communicate and engage effectively with a wide ranging audience.

The post-holders will join a group of early and mid-career researchers who will be supported through mentorship, training and experiential learning to develop their research skills and expertise.

The posts will be based with the Public Health and Policy Group for ASTRA and Mental Health and Addictions Research Group for IMPACT, in the Department of Health Sciences, University of York.
Main purpose of the role

- To contribute to and/or lead on the production of research outputs and research outcomes related to ongoing tobacco related studies (ASTRA) or mental and physical comorbidity research (IMPACT).
- To participate actively in the planning and management of research projects, including supervising the work of others and providing expert advice and guidance.
- To contribute to and/or lead the obtaining of external research funding.

Key responsibilities

(Role holders will be required to undertake some or all of the duties below)

- To participate actively in the planning and advancement of research programmes. Duties to include: the management of identified parts of either ASTRA or IMPACT related projects; the management of other support staff and research students to ensure that the project is successfully completed and that the researchers working on the project are supported in their personal and professional development; the management of research resources, ensuring that effective use is made of them.
- To plan and conduct high quality statistical analyses of relevant studies, undertaking statistical programming for checking, manipulating, summarising and analysing data.
- To write or contribute to publications or disseminate research findings, including public engagement to non-research specialist organisations using other appropriate media.
- Undertake peer review of research publications and actively contribute to the Research Excellence Framework (REF).
- To make presentations at conferences or exhibit work in other appropriate events.
- To develop ideas and necessary collaborations for application of research outcomes.
- To decide on research methodologies, often in collaboration with colleagues.
- To develop ideas for generating income and promoting the research area, including contributing to the process of securing external funding.
- Extend, transform and apply knowledge acquired from scholarship to research and appropriate external activities.
- To attend departmental meetings as required and undertake appropriate managerial and administrative tasks in connection with the research activity.
- To develop and initiate collaborative working internally and externally, and the fostering of internal and external networks in order to advance research and exploit opportunities for collaboration and funding sources.
## PERSON SPECIFICATION

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<th>Qualifications</th>
<th>Essential / Desirable</th>
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<tr>
<td>First degree in relevant scientific or health-related discipline</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>PhD in relevant area (e.g. epidemiology, statistics, health services research) or equivalent relevant methodological experience in academia or industry</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<tr>
<th>Knowledge</th>
<th>Essential / Desirable</th>
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<tr>
<td>Knowledge of the types of statistical methods associated with cohort studies, trials, and other observational studies</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Strong working knowledge of a range of quantitative research techniques and methodologies</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Has research expertise in an area that will complement and enhance the department's research strategy and goals</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Knowledge of literature related to non-communicable diseases, particularly tobacco control, mental health or long-term conditions.</td>
<td>Desirable</td>
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<th>Skills, abilities and competencies</th>
<th>Essential</th>
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<td>Highly developed communication skills to engage effectively with a wide ranging audience, both orally and in writing, using a range of media</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Practical experience in quantitative data analysis</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Skilled in the use of command driven statistical package(s) e.g. Stata, 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>Ability to lead and/or take responsibility for identified parts of a large project</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>Ability to identify sources of funding and contribute to the process of securing funds, with collaborators if required</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Ability to persuade and influence project stakeholders</td>
<td>Desirable</td>
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<tr>
<th>Experience</th>
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<tr>
<td>Experience of handling large, complex datasets in database or statistical applications</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Experience of analysing large datasets using advanced statistical techniques e.g. longitudinal analysis, multi-level modelling, time to event analyses</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Experience of contributing to peer-reviewed articles and/or reports</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>Evidence of dissemination of scholarly work which may include: the presentation of papers at conferences and workshops; participation in public engagement events to disseminate research; the publishing of chapters in text books; the publishing of papers; articles or reviews in academic journals or elsewhere; the development of websites</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Experience of undertaking research in low and middle income countries</td>
<td>Desirable</td>
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<td><strong>For IMPACT applicants</strong> experience of working with people with mental illness or with communities on mental health issues</td>
<td>Desirable</td>
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## Personal attributes

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<th>Attribute</th>
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<tr>
<td>Attention to detail and commitment to high quality</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>Interest in and enthusiasm for the subject matter of the project(s)</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>Willingness to travel and conduct field visits in South Asia</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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THE DEPARTMENT

The Department is located in modern, purpose-built accommodation on the University’s Heslington West Campus and includes 280 academics, teachers, researchers and support staff engaged in delivering research, professional development, education and training. Teaching and research programmes are underpinned by excellent administrative support systems for staff.

Our core aim is excellence in teaching and research, while contributing to improving health and healthcare through the application of our research to policy and practice. We are committed to having our teaching underpinned by our internationally renowned research. The University has an institutional research strategy www.york.ac.uk/research/ to which the Department contributes by developing strong and well-resourced research groups.

Our research is characterised by: interdisciplinary and international collaboration; a robust scientific foundation; and relevance for policy and practice. The Department organises its research activities around six core themes and groups: mental health and addiction (Professor Simon Gilbody); trials and statistics (Professor David Torgerson); public health and society (Professor Kate Pickett); cancer epidemiology (Professor Eve Roman); cardiovascular health (Professor Patrick Doherty); and health services and policy (Professor Karen Bloor). In addition, we have an expanding portfolio of global health research, including two recent NIHR global health awards to Professor Kamran Siddiqi, Professor Simon Gilbody/Dr Najma Siddiqi to establish two new multidisciplinary research groups in South Asia to address smokeless tobacco use and mental and physical multimorbidity, respectively.

We have strong research and teaching links with the Hull York Medical School (HYMS), supported through a number of HYMS posts embedded our Department. We also have strong links with other centres and departments at York, including the Centre for Health Economics (CHE) and the Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD), as well as other leading UK and international centres of applied health research.

Our research focus is supported by access to and innovative use of population data (including Department-led patient-based data systems), in addition to intervention studies conducted by the Department’s trials unit (York Trials Unit) and expertise in secondary data analysis, systematic reviewing and qualitative research. Academic disciplines represented in the Department include public health, epidemiology, biostatistics, health economics, social policy, sociology and applied psychology. Our multi-disciplinary staff group also includes clinical academics involved in nursing, public health, primary care and mental health.

In addition, we have close partnerships with health and social
THE DEPARTMENT

care agencies and local and national government organisations, in addition to various third sector organisations and international agencies, such as the World Health Organisation (WHO).

The Department has a strong culture of delivering research impact and in undertaking research that makes a difference. A key object of our research is to ensure our work has high visibility and impact with national and international audiences. This includes producing evidence which enables practitioners and policy makers to develop more effective interventions, measure and address health inequalities and gain insight into how the social and economic context mediates the experience of health and the provision of health care.

We are also interested in developing more speculative and theoretically-informed work critically evaluating the underlying assumptions of policy and practice. To achieve these impacts, we work closely with practitioners, policy makers and other researchers to share knowledge and disseminate our findings. We are equally committed to public and civil engagement and in sustaining our partnerships with third sector organisations and non-Government organisations.

In 2016/2017 the Department’s research related income was over £7.3 million, with over 120 staff actively involved in research. Funding comes from a number of sources including the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR), the Department of Health, the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), Medical Research Council (MRC), the British Heart Foundation (BHF), European Union, Cancer Research UK, Diabetes UK, Wellcome and Bloodwise.

In the most recent assessment of research quality in the UK (the 2014 Research Excellence Framework), the Department, along with its partners, the Centre for Health Economics, the Centre for Reviews and Dissemination and the Hull York Medical School, was ranked 7th nationally in the subject area of public health, health services and primary care. Members of the Department also contributed to returns in Sociology (ranked first) and Social Policy (ranked third).

74% of outputs submitted by our academic staff members have been judged as world leading or internationally excellent in terms of originality, significance and rigour. Our impacts were also judged to be outstanding or very considerable in terms of reach and significance.

Finally, the department was ranked equal first nationally for its research environment and all aspects of our research environment was judged to producing research of world-leading quality in terms of vitality and sustainability.

Integral to our mission is career support, including doctoral studentships and fellowships, as well as the supportive
management of those reaching the end of their research contracts.

We have over 700 enrolled students on our pre-registration nursing and midwifery programmes and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) programmes, enjoying the highest standards of professional and academic training in a lively and stimulating environment. We have excellent relationships with our partner organisations in the NHS, not for profit and private healthcare sectors. As a department, we have a high degree of awareness of the changes and challenges which are currently taking place within professional healthcare education.

We currently have over 200 postgraduate students based in our Graduate School which provides a vibrant, multidisciplinary learning environment. We offer a diverse range of full- and part-time taught and research-based postgraduate degrees designed for those wishing to develop and follow a career in public health, health services research and other health-related areas. Our programmes have been designed around the particular strengths and experience of the academics within the Graduate School and reflect the latest thinking in health and healthcare. It is possible to study course modules independently of a full programme.

The Master of Public Health, runs in association with the Hull York Medical School and is suitable for students from a wide variety of disciplines who wish to pursue careers as public health practitioners or work in governmental or non-governmental organisations, both in the UK and overseas. The Department also offers an MSc in Applied Health Research which is particularly relevant for science and social science graduates interested in a career in health services research and health professionals who wish to develop their research skills, and an online MSc in International Humanitarian Affairs. Students from all these programmes go on to complete PhD studies.

Our PhD students are embedded in one of our research groups and have the flexibility to tailor their studies to pursue their own research interests, and a bespoke training programme is designed in conjunction with the supervisory team to support the development of essential subject-specific and transferable skills for their future careers.

For more details about the Department of Health Sciences and our teaching and research activities please visit our website: http://www.york.ac.uk/healthsciences/
THE UNIVERSITY

Founded on principles of excellence, equality and opportunity for all, the University of York opened in 1963 with just 230 students. In 2018 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 are ranked 16th in the Times & Sunday Times league table (2017). 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 is committed to promoting a diverse and inclusive community - a place where we can all be ourselves and succeed on merit. We offer a range of family friendly, inclusive employment policies, flexible working arrangements, staff engagement forums, campus facilities and services to support staff from different backgrounds.

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 6761
- Complete the online application form
You will need to submit your completed application by midnight (local UK time) on 23 July 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 3 referees.

Help and assistance
Direct any informal queries to Prof Kamran Siddqi (for ASTRA) (kamran.siddiqi@york.ac.uk, +44(0)1904 321335) or Dr Najma Siddiqi (for IMPACT) (najmsa.siddiqi@york.ac.uk)
If you have any questions about your application, contact the HR Services team:
  recruitment@york.ac.uk
  +44 (0)1904 324835