Health Economist/Research Fellow
Centre for Reviews and Dissemination

Closing date: 26 August 2018
Interview date: To Be Confirmed
Vacancy reference: 6883
INTRODUCTION

We seek an enthusiastic and ambitious Grade 6 Research Fellow/Health Economist to join the Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) at the University of York.

CRD is a research department that specialises in evidence synthesis and conducts projects across a wide range of health areas to provide best evidence to inform policy and practice decisions. Established in 1994, the centre has completed over 160 systematic reviews of health and public health interventions, many of which have had a direct impact on national policy.

Applications are invited from candidates who have a Masters level qualification in health economics, mathematics, economics, statistics or in health research with a strong quantitative component, and preferably have a relevant PhD. Knowledge of health economics and economic evaluation methods is essential. Previous experience of the design and development of decision analytic models and a proven track record of publications in high quality journals is highly desirable.

The successful candidate will work mainly within the NIHR Technology Assessment Reviews (TAR) Programme, a research contract held jointly with the Centre for Health Economics (CHE), delivering technology assessments, most commonly for NICE. They will also contribute to other CRD HTA projects, incorporating decision analytic modelling and evidence synthesis (e.g. network meta-analysis and statistical analysis of individual participant data) and to methodological projects. The candidate will be willing to be flexible and to contribute to wider evidence synthesis activities in addition to their substantive role as a health economist.

The person appointed will have a strong link with CHE, will attend regular seminars and research meetings and have access to CHE training courses.
Main purpose of the role

This person appointed will contribute to economic evaluation and quantitative synthesis across CRD research programmes. They will work mainly within health technology assessment commissioned under the NIHR Technology Assessment Reviews programme. They will also contribute to CRD HTA projects, incorporating decision analytic modelling and evidence synthesis, including network meta-analysis and statistical analysis of individual participant data, and to methods development. They will undertake existing and commissioned projects and be expected to help plan and develop new research proposals. The specific nature of the research undertaken will depend on the skills, experience and interests of the successful applicant.

Key responsibilities

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

- Assist in the development of grant applications and funding applications
- Collaborate in multi-disciplinary research teams within and outside of the University of York
- Contribute to the development and delivery of short courses and other training events, as required
- Contribute to knowledge translation activity, as required
- Be responsible for administrative duties and roles within CRD, as assigned

- Make an active contribution to health economics research within CRD
- Build and critically review decision models (including cohort and individual sampling models)
- Liaise with key stakeholders including clinical experts and NICE technical teams
- Undertake statistical analyses for example, regression analysis, network meta-analyses
- Help devise and plan research projects
- Publish and disseminate research findings

At a glance

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<tr>
<th>Salary</th>
<th>£31,604 to £38,832 Per year</th>
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<tr>
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JOB DESCRIPTION

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<tr>
<th>Qualifications</th>
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<tr>
<td>Masters-level qualification in health economics, economics, mathematics, statistics, or applied health research</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>PhD in a relevant discipline</td>
<td>Desirable</td>
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<th>Knowledge</th>
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<tr>
<td>Health economics and methods for applied economic evaluation</td>
<td>Essential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health technology assessment methods</td>
<td>Essential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Principles and methods of systematic review and meta-analysis</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<th>Skills, abilities and competencies</th>
<th>Essential / Desirable</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strong quantitative skills</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<tr>
<td>Excellent writing and presentation skills</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<tr>
<td>Good IT skills</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ability to engage and communicate with non-research audiences</td>
<td>Desirable</td>
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<th>Experience</th>
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<tr>
<td>Undertaking health-related research</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<tr>
<td>Using spreadsheets and statistical software packages (e.g. Excel, Stata, SAS, SPSS, R, WinBUGS)</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<tr>
<td>Delivering work to agreed deadlines</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<tr>
<td>Writing research reports and academic papers</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Work experience of applying economic evaluation methods</td>
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<tr>
<td>Good publication record</td>
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<td>Involvement in TAR work from the NICE, company or Evidence Review Group perspective</td>
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<td>Undertaking independent research</td>
<td>Desirable</td>
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<tr>
<td>Undertaking meta-analysis/ network meta-analysis</td>
<td>Desirable</td>
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<tr>
<td>Developing and/or presenting teaching materials</td>
<td>Desirable</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contributing to research proposals</td>
<td>Desirable</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Personal attributes</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>An interest in and enthusiasm for evidence synthesis and evidence informed policy</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ability to work constructively as part of a team</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ability to work on own initiative</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<tr>
<td>Excellent communication/ inter-personal skills</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attention to detail and commitment to producing high quality outputs</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commitment to developing new skills and personal development</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Growing reputation with health economics/ HTA</td>
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THE DEPARTMENT

Background

The Centre for Reviews and Dissemination is a research department that specialises in evidence synthesis. We have been conducting and disseminating the findings of systematic reviews and developing underpinning methods for over 20 years.

We currently have 47 members of staff consisting of researchers, clinicians, information specialists, administrative staff and postgraduate students, including NIHR Academic Clinical Fellows, as well as Visiting Academic Fellows. We collaborate widely with colleagues in the University of York and CRD is co-located and has long-standing and successful collaborative partnerships with the Centre for Health Economics (CHE), the Department of Health Sciences, the Social Policy Research Unit (SPRU) and the Hull York Medical School (HYMS). Together these departments constitute a health services research network - a broad, multi-disciplinary grouping that includes academic public health, primary care, and secondary (specialised) health service expertise as well as strengths in epidemiology, trials, evidence synthesis, informatics, bioethics and social policy research. Externally, we work with relevant groups in the UK and internationally, and have strong links with both the Cochrane and Campbell Collaborations and host the Cochrane Common Mental Disorders Group.

Many of our systematic reviews have had a direct influence on national policy and have achieved international impact. The world leading research undertaken by CRD, CHE, the Department of Health Sciences and HYMS has been recognised by the University of York's ranking as equal 7th for Public Health, Health Services and Primary Care in the 2014 Research Excellence Framework. The results show that 83% of our research was rated as “world leading” or “internationally excellent”. Our research spans health technology assessment, public health and policy and service delivery and organisation, all underpinned by a programme of methodological development.

Health Technology Assessment

Our largest programme of work is in health technology assessment. This includes Technology Assessment Reviews (TAR) funded by the NIHR Health Technology Assessment Programme, which are undertaken in collaboration with CHE. For NICE, we carry out critical reviews of manufacturer submissions under the Single Technology Appraisal process and review, synthesis and modelling under the Multiple Technology Appraisal process and the Diagnostic Assessment Programme. Ongoing and recently completed TAR work includes: a single technology appraisals of axicabtagene ciloleucel for treating diffuse large B-cell lymphoma, mediastinal B-cell lymphoma and follicular lymphoma and of crizotinib for untreated non-small cell lung cancer; an assessment of a highly specialised technology strimvelis for treating severe combined immunodeficiency caused by adenosine deaminase deficiency and an HTA short report on management strategies for phantom limb pain.

Outside of TAR, we undertake systematic reviews and
economic evaluations of benefits, harms and costs of a range of healthcare interventions. Current work includes:

- NIHR Cochrane Programme of nutritional interventions to promote optimal growth and development in preterm infants
- NIHR Postdoctoral Fellowship to assess strategies to reduce antibiotic use in children with cancer
- PCORI funded IPD meta-analysis of progestogen for prevention of preterm birth
- NIHR HTA funded evidence synthesis of interventions for complex traumatic events
- NIHR HTA funded IPD meta-analysis and economic evaluation of Applied Behavioural Analysis interventions for pre-school children with autism
- Cochrane reviews of common mental disorders.

Public health and policy

CRD has a track record of undertaking systematic reviews to address important public health questions. As a collaborator in the DH Policy Research Programme (PRP) funded Public Health Research Consortium we are completing a series of reviews on multiple risk behaviours. We are also working with colleagues in the Department of Health Sciences on a NIHR Public Health Research Programme funded project addressing novel psychoactive substances.

We work in partnership with the EPPI-Centre, London and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine to provide a Department of Health (DH) supported policy reviews facility that supports national policy development and implementation, develops improved methods for evidence synthesis and promotes global awareness of the importance of reviews in decision-making.

Service Delivery and Organisation

CRD provides the NIHR Health Services and Delivery Research (HS&DR) Evidence Synthesis Centre. We summarise key evidence for managers and clinical leaders, producing authoritative single-source documents that provide clear messages in complex areas. The programme is led by CRD in collaboration with SPRU and CHE, and the EPPI-Centre, London.

Cochrane Common Mental Disorders Review Group

CRD hosts the Common Mental Disorder (CMD) Group which is one of 52 Cochrane review groups worldwide. CMD is an international network of individuals and organizations committed to preparing and disseminating systematic reviews on the prevention and treatment of common mental disorders such as depression, anxiety disorders, eating disorders, somatoform disorders and suicide. Cochrane systematic reviews are published in The Cochrane Library. Cochrane reviews are recognised as the gold standard in evidence-based health care.

Underpinning methods of synthesis

Methodological development underpins all of our research and we have particular interests in network meta-analysis and IPD synthesis including enhancement of statistical models, risk prediction and combining observational with experimental data. We are involved in developing approaches to utilise trial data and information increasingly being released under open data and data sharing initiatives. Other areas of interest include methods of narrative synthesis and defining methods and approaches to "rapid evidence synthesis".

Knowledge Translation

Active dissemination and knowledge transfer is integral to CRD research and we aim to communicate research findings in ways that maximise usefulness, uptake and use in practice. Effectiveness Matters is a CRD bulletin that provides concise summaries of reliable research evidence for practitioners and decision makers in the NHS and public health.

University of York Research Strategy

In alignment with the University’s Research Strategy Health and Wellbeing and Risk Evidence and Decision Making themes, CRD is expanding its capacity to deliver high quality policy-relevant research. We are increasing our capacity to undertake health technology assessment and evidence synthesis across a broad range of clinical areas whilst building specific expertise in child health, cancer and mental health. We are extending the scope of public health research to cover public policy more broadly, in particular the wider social determinants of health (e.g. housing, transport, environment). We are seeking to build capacity and expertise across health, social care and public policy and are looking to appoint enthusiastic, skilled applied health researchers, statisticians and health economists who are committed to establishing a career in evidence synthesis.

Further information about the University of York is available at http://www.york.ac.uk

Further information about CRD including completed and ongoing research projects can be found at: http://www.york.ac.uk/crd
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 6883
- Complete the online application form

You will need to submit your completed application by midnight (local UK time) on 26 August 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 rob.hodgson@york.ac.uk or 01904 321069

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

recruitment@york.ac.uk
+44 (0)1904 324835