Research Fellow
Centre for Health Economics

Closing date: 6 March 2019
Interview date: 11 April 2019
Vacancy reference: 7287
INTRODUCTION

In recent years, the Centre for Health Economics (CHE) has significantly progressed its activities in global health economics, expanding and complementing our existing research strengths in this field through the development of a portfolio of rigorous methods and applied research of national and international policy relevance.

This development in CHE has been part of a broad range of related activities and significant investment across the University of York in the field of global health, spanning several disciplines including economics, health sciences, biology, medicine, environment and history.

We are seeking to appoint a Grade 6 Research Fellow. We are looking for a person with a strong background in applied microeconometrics and an interest in policy impact evaluation using quasi-experimental methods. Previous experience in global health (i.e. health-related work with a focus on low- or middle-income countries), or development economics, would be highly desirable. The researcher will have the opportunity to contribute to ongoing work, including e.g. a major NIHR-funded project developing and applying innovative methods for evaluating population- and system-level interventions in Brazil, South Africa and Indonesia, as well as a large project examining the consequences of conflict in Colombia for population health and the health system, using panel data econometric approaches.

There will also be opportunities to contribute to the development of new research and research proposals on methodological and applied areas, in line with the researcher’s interests. Examples of current topics of methodological research in the team include the incorporation of equity considerations in policy and economic evaluations, and the use of machine learning for causal inference in policy evaluation.
Main purpose of the role

- To contribute to and/or lead on the production of research outputs
- To contribute to and/or lead the obtaining of external research funding
- To communicate the results of research to different audiences (academics, policymakers and the general public) through written reports and papers, presentations at conferences, workshops and other forums

Key responsibilities

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

- To review and critique relevant literature relating to areas including research methods, applied economic evaluation and clinical evidence
- To prepare, analyse and interpret research data
- To write or contribute to publications or disseminate research findings, including public engagement to non-research specialist organisations using other appropriate media
- To liaise with local research teams in partner countries (e.g. in Brazil, Colombia, Indonesia and others) as necessary throughout the relevant projects, for data analysis and interpretation of results
- Undertake peer review of research publications
- 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 programmes and methodologies, often in collaboration with colleagues
- To identify opportunities for new research and contribute to the writing of grant proposals
- Extend, transform and apply knowledge acquired from scholarship to research and appropriate external activities
- To initiate and develop collaborative work 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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<tr>
<th>Qualifications</th>
<th>Essential / Desirable</th>
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<tr>
<td>Master’s degree in economics or health economics, econometrics, development economics, statistics or another quantitative subject</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>PhD in relevant quantitative area or equivalent experience</td>
<td>Desirable</td>
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<tr>
<th>Knowledge</th>
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<tr>
<td>Knowledge of a range of research techniques and methodologies relevant for applied microeconometric work (e.g. difference-in-differences, propensity score matching, synthetic control methods, instrumental variables, panel data estimation approaches)</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<tr>
<td>Knowledge of global health, and application of economics to global health issues, to engage in high quality research</td>
<td>Desirable</td>
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<td>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>Advanced and specialist IT knowledge</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<th>Skills, abilities and competencies</th>
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<td>Advanced skills in the use of the statistical package Stata</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Familiarity with the R or Python programming languages</td>
<td>Desirable</td>
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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>
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<td>Ability to lead and/or take responsibility for a small research project or identified parts of a large project</td>
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<td>Ability to write up research work for publication and onward dissemination</td>
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<td>Ability to persuade and influence project stakeholders</td>
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<td>Ability to develop research objectives, projects and proposals for own and joint research, with supervision if required</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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<tr>
<td>Ability to identify opportunities for new research, sources of funding and contribute to the process of securing funds, with collaborators if required</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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## PERSON SPECIFICATION

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<th>Competency</th>
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<td><strong>Essential</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Competency to make presentations at internationally recognised conferences or exhibit work in other appropriate events</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<tr>
<td>Well developed analytical skills</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td><strong>Desirable</strong></td>
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### Experience

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<tr>
<td>Experience of undertaking publicly evidenced high quality research</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Evidenced active participation in the planning and advancement of collaborative research projects</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Experience working with household survey data and large administrative datasets</td>
<td>Desirable</td>
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### Personal attributes

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<td><strong>Essential</strong></td>
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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>Commitment to promoting the public understanding of research and scholarship</td>
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<td>Positive attitude to colleagues and students</td>
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<td>Willingness to work proactively with colleagues in other work areas, disciplines and institutions</td>
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<td>Ability to plan and prioritise own work in order to meet deadlines</td>
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<td>Commitment to personal development and updating of knowledge and skills</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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THE DEPARTMENT

Background:
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 institution.

We have a 35 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/
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 econometric work includes, for instance, the econometric estimation of relevant cost-effectiveness thresholds in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), the evaluation of fiscal policies to improve diet in Latin America, the economic consequences of road traffic injuries and of diabetes in selected LMICs, the analysis of levels and determinants of efficiency in Latin American health systems, the impacts of development assistance for health on domestic resource allocation and health outcomes, the impact of mental health on poverty in South Africa, the population health and health system consequences of conflict in Colombia, and the evaluation of population- and system-level interventions in Indonesia, Brazil and South Africa. Our work in these and other areas is in collaboration with, among others, the World Health Organization, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and several partner institutions in LMICs, including governmental bodies and academic institutions. Other work falls into the theme of economic evaluation of health technologies, comprising methods, policy and applied research. The projects include, among others, a major GCRF-funded project developing and sustaining high-quality research to inform resource allocation decisions in sub-Saharan Africa; a collaboration with NICE International, the Centre for Global Development and other institutions to establish an International Decision Support Initiative around health technology assessment in LMICs; and membership of the HIV Modelling Consortium, to inform HIV policy internationally; the latter two projects funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF). CHE has also been advising BMGF on Reference Case methods for use in the economic evaluations it supports.

The aim of the global health economics work is to further diversify the research to encompass the full range of research areas in CHE. Hence the specific focus of the post on applied health econometric work.

Further details on global health research: http://www.york.ac.uk/che/research/global-health/

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
THE DEPARTMENT

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.

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.

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.york.ac.uk/che/courses/york-summer-workshops/. We run a further four courses focusing on methods and applied research methods: http://www.york.ac.uk/che/courses/short/.

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 visitors each year from all over the world and offering the CHE Research Fellowship programme to support visits from early and mid-career researchers.

CHE is part of the Research Centre for Social Sciences: http://www.york.ac.uk/social-science/, 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.

See: http://www.york.ac.uk/che/athena-swans/

Further information about the department is available at: http://www.york.ac.uk/che/
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 7287
- Complete the online application form

You will need to submit your completed application by midnight (local UK time) on 6 March 2019

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:
Professor Marc Suhrcke (marc.suhrcke@york.ac.uk),
Dr Rodrigo Moreno Serra (rodrigo.morenoserra@york.ac.uk)
or Trish Smith (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