Research Fellow

Department: Health Sciences

Hours of work: Full time, 37 per week

Contract type: Fixed term – 24 months

Salary: Grade 7, £40,322 to £49,553 a year
Introduction

The Mental Health and Addictions Research Group at the University of York has been awarded a prestigious Programme Grant for Applied Health Research (PGfAR) from the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) in the area of physical activity and severe mental illness (SMI). The overall aim of the SPACES programme (Supporting Physical and Activity through Co-production in people with Severe Mental Illness) is to develop and test an intervention to support people with SMI to increase their physical activity. The programme will include the theory- and evidence-based development of an intervention (in co-production with a wide variety of stakeholders), a feasibility and refinement phase, a full randomised controlled trial, a process evaluation and health economic analyses, over a duration of six years.

We are looking for a Research Fellow to join the large interdisciplinary programme research team of academics, clinicians and service user/carer representatives. The post presents an exciting opportunity for an ambitious and highly motivated person to develop their own career in an excellent research environment, joining a large and highly successful multi-disciplinary Department renowned for its methodological expertise and commitment to research with high impact on policy and practice.

As Research Fellow for SPACES, you will be centrally involved in and manage the preparation and undertaking of mixed-methods research (including the development of an intervention and manuals, stakeholder engagement workshops, a feasibility study, randomised controlled trial, process and economic evaluation) as part of an interdisciplinary team. Supported by the Programme Lead, you will manage a small sub-team of full-time and part-time researchers and engage comprehensively with a variety of academic, clinical and PPI stakeholders involved with the research. You will have the opportunity to contribute substantially to publications and other outputs from the research, to be involved in national and international dissemination activities, including conferences, and to use your initiative to contribute to the development of future research.

To fulfil this role, experience with larger research programmes or trials involving mixed-methods research, excellent communication and problem solving skills, outstanding commitment to high quality work, a keen interest in the research topic, and attention to detail are essential. Mentorship, training and experiential learning to further develop research skills and expertise will be provided.

This post will be based within the Mental Health and Addictions Research Group at the Department of Health Sciences at the University of York.

For informal enquiries please contact Dr Emily Peckham email: emily.peckham@york.ac.uk

Main purpose of the role

- To contribute to and/or lead on the production of research outputs and outcomes related to the SPACES programme.
- To participate actively in the planning and management of the SPACES programme, including supervising the work of others and providing expert advice and guidance
- To contribute to and/or lead the obtaining of external research funding
- To contribute to the public understanding of research and scholarship

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 the SPACES research programme. Duties include: the management of central parts of the SPACES programme; the management of other research staff, 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 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 contexts

• To develop ideas and necessary collaborations for application of research outcomes

• To decide on research programmes and 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 supervise postgraduate research students and mentor colleagues with less experience. Advising on their personal development and supporting them in developing their research techniques

• 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

**Condition of Employment**

This role is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act. Consequently, all applicants will be asked to declare both unspent and spent convictions on their application form.

Appointment of the successful candidate will be conditional on a Disclosure and Barring Service check.
## Person specification

### Qualifications

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<tr>
<th>Qualification</th>
<th>Essential / Desirable</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First degree in a health-related field</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<tr>
<td>PhD in a relevant area (e.g. health services research; mental health; physical activity research) or equivalent relevant experience in academia or the NHS</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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### Knowledge

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<th>Knowledge</th>
<th>Essential / Desirable</th>
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<tr>
<td>Knowledge of a range of research techniques, methodologies and theories (e.g. qualitative interviews; trials; process evaluation; behaviour change theory)</td>
<td>Essential</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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<tr>
<td>Knowledge related to the development and evaluation of complex interventions in health research</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Advanced and specialist IT knowledge</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Knowledge of the structure and organisation of adult mental health services in England</td>
<td>Desirable</td>
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<tr>
<td>Knowledge related to Patient and Public Involvement and co-production processes in research</td>
<td>Desirable</td>
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### Skills, abilities and competencies

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<tr>
<th>Skills, abilities and competencies</th>
<th>Essential / Desirable</th>
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<tr>
<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>Ability to lead and/or take responsibility for identified parts of a large research programme</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Ability to supervise the work of others</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Ability to write up research work for publication and onward dissemination</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Ability to persuade and influence project stakeholders (including clinicians)</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Ability to develop research objectives, projects and proposals for own and joint research</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Ability to design high quality qualitative or quantitative studies</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>Competency to conduct individual and collaborative research projects</td>
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<td>Ability to extend, transform and apply knowledge acquired from scholarship to research and appropriate external activities</td>
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<td>Competency to make presentations at internationally recognised conferences or exhibit work in other appropriate events</td>
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<td>Well-developed analytical skills</td>
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<td>Well-developed problem solving skills</td>
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<td>Advanced level of competency related to research governance processes</td>
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<td><strong>Experience</strong></td>
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<td>Experience of undertaking high quality research</td>
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<td>Experience of setting up and managing research studies</td>
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<td>Experience of successful management of research projects, including supervision of the work of others</td>
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<td>Evidence of dissemination of scholarly work, including papers at conferences; participation in public engagement events to disseminate research; the publishing of papers</td>
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<td>Proven ability to attract and obtain external research funding</td>
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<td>Experience of projects involving co-production</td>
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<td>Experience of working or engaging with vulnerable populations</td>
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<td><strong>Personal attributes</strong></td>
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<td>Attention to detail and commitment to high quality work</td>
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<td>Evidenced high level of independent thinking and problem solving skills</td>
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<td>Collaborative ethos</td>
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<td>Commitment to promoting the public understanding of research and scholarship</td>
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<td>Willingness to undertake travel between regional and national research sites</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/institutions</td>
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<td>Evidenced ability to plan and prioritise project work in order to meet deadlines</td>
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<td>Commitment to personal development and updating of knowledge and skills both for themselves and the personal development of those they supervise</td>
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<td>Interest in and enthusiasm for the subject area of the SPACES programme</td>
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