**Job title**  
Research Assistant

**Job family and level**  
Research and Teaching Level 4a

**School/Department**  
School of Medicine – Division of Epidemiology & Public Health

**Location**  
Epidemiology & Public Health, Clinical Sciences Building, Nottingham City Hospital Campus

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**Purpose of role**

SPECTRUM (Shaping Public Health policies To Reduce inequalities and harm) is a research consortium led by the University of Edinburgh which has been funded through the UK Prevention Research Partnership (UKPRP). The focus of the new Consortium will be the commercial determinants of health and health inequalities, continuing the Nottingham-led UK Centre for Tobacco and Alcohol Study’s work at the population level on tobacco and alcohol, but also extending to unhealthy food and drink products.

There is evidence that exposure to unhealthy commodities (tobacco, alcohol and to a lesser extent foods high in fat, salt and sugar, HFSS) imagery in televised media causes young people to experiment with and become regular users of these unhealthy commodities, but the magnitude of the public health problem caused by this exposure, the drivers for inclusion and the most appropriate preventive policy responses remain uncertain. The effect of exposure from other sources, including television, YouTube, social and other new media, are less well documented.

The purpose of this role will be to support a programme of work on tobacco, alcohol and HFSS media content, building on our existing work in this area and extending to other forms of ’new’ media. The role holder will be required to code media for alcohol, tobacco and junk food content so will, therefore, need to be highly focussed with strong attention to detail.

The successful candidate will have a degree, in a broadly relevant area of research, a track record demonstrating the necessary numerical and investigative skills relevant to the above work. A track record or experience of writing up research for peer-review publication would be an advantage. You will join an established team including at the University of Nottingham. You will have the opportunity to use your initiative and creativity to identify areas for research, develop research methods and extend their research portfolio.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Main responsibilities</th>
<th>% time per year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Research Responsibilities:</strong></td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ To undertake supervised research, which may include planning, preparing, setting up, conducting and recording the outcome of experiments and fieldwork, developing questionnaires and conducting surveys within the framework of an agreed programme.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ To conduct literature and database searches and carry out analyses and/or tests and/or critical evaluations using specified and agreed techniques, approaches and/or models and document findings.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
- To work in conjunction with others in the research team to achieve the research project objectives within the required timeline.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Engagement, Communication and Continuation Responsibilities:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>▪ To contribute to the production of research reports and publications and prepare and present papers on research progress and outcomes to relevant groups including external bodies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ To advise and assist other staff/students within area of expertise.</td>
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<tr>
<td>▪ To build relationships with internal and external contacts to develop knowledge and understanding and form relationships for future collaborations.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

20%

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Development:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>▪ To continue to develop skills in and knowledge of research methods and techniques and contribute to the development of/or choice of techniques, models, methods, critiques and approaches.</td>
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</table>

10%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Other:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>▪ Any duties as required in accordance with the nature and grade of the post.</td>
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</table>

Person specification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Skills</th>
<th>Essential</th>
<th>Desirable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>▪ High level of concentration and attention to detail.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ Ability to prioritise workload effectively.</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>▪ Excellent oral and written communication skills, including the ability to communicate with clarity on complex information.</td>
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<tr>
<td>▪ Evidence of sufficient breadth or depth of research methodologies and techniques to work in research area.</td>
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<tr>
<td>▪ Developing research skills.</td>
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<tr>
<td>▪ Ability to contribute to method improvement.</td>
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<tr>
<td>▪ Analytical ability to facilitate conceptual thinking, innovation and creativity.</td>
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<tr>
<td>▪ Ability to build relationships and collaborate with others, internally and externally.</td>
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<tr>
<td>▪ Demonstrates a desire to further develop skills and knowledge of research methods and techniques.</td>
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<tr>
<td>▪ Knowledge of either tobacco or alcohol dependence or policy.</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Knowledge and experience</th>
<th>Essential</th>
<th>Desirable</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>▪ Some practical experience of applying the specialist skills and approaches and techniques required for the role.</td>
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<td>▪ Experience in use of STATA or SPSS.</td>
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<td>▪ Working knowledge of new media e.g. Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and Tik Tok for targeted business/research purposes.</td>
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</tr>
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<td>▪ Evidence in use of research methodologies and techniques to work within research area.</td>
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</table>

RPF Band B
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Qualifications, certification and training (relevant to role)</strong></th>
<th>▪ Degree or equivalent in relevant subject area, such as health, behavioural or computer science or media studies.</th>
<th>▪ Master’s Degree, or equivalent in relevant subject area.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Experience of developing research methodologies.</strong></td>
<td>▪ Experience of developing new approaches, models, techniques or methods in research area.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other</strong></td>
<td>▪ Willingness to adopt the <em>Ethos and Principles</em> of the School of Medicine.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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The University of Nottingham is focused on embedding equality, diversity and inclusion in all that we do. As part of this, we welcome a diverse population to join our work force and therefore encourage applicants from all communities, particularly those with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010.

The School of Medicine holds a Silver Athena SWAN award in recognition of our achievements in promoting and advancing these principles. Please see [http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/medicine/about/athena-swan.aspx](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/medicine/about/athena-swan.aspx)
Expectations and behaviours

The University has developed a clear set of core expectations and behaviours that our people should be demonstrating in their work, and as ambassadors of the University’s strategy, vision and values. The following are essential to the role:

Valuing people
Is friendly, engaging and receptive, putting others at ease. Actively listens to others and goes out of way to ensure people feel valued, developed and supported.

Taking ownership
Is clear on what needs to be done encouraging others to take ownership. Takes action when required, being mindful of important aspects such as Health & Safety, Equality, Diversity & Inclusion, and other considerations.

Forward thinking
Drives the development, sharing and implementation of new ideas and improvements to support strategic objectives. Engages others in the improvement process.

Professional pride
Is professional in approach and style, setting an example to others; strives to demonstrate excellence through development of self, others and effective working practices.

Always inclusive
Builds effective working relationships, recognising and including the contribution of others; promotes inclusion and inclusive practices within own work area.

Key relationships with others
Role profile

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Job title</th>
<th>Research Associate/Fellow</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Job family and level</td>
<td>Research and Teaching Level 4 Training Grade/Level 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>School/Department</td>
<td>School of Medicine – Division of Epidemiology &amp; Public Health</td>
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<td>Location</td>
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You will have or be near to completion of a PhD in a broadly relevant area of research, a track record demonstrating the necessary numerical and investigative skills relevant to the above work. A track record or experience of writing up research for peer-review publication would be an advantage. You will join an established team including at the University of Nottingham. You will have the opportunity to use your initiative and creativity to identify areas for research, develop research methods and extend their research portfolio.

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<tr>
<td>▪ To manage, plan and conduct own research activity using recognised approaches, methodologies and techniques within the research area.</td>
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<td>▪ To resolve problems, in meeting research objectives and deadlines in collaboration with others.</td>
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<td>▪ To identify opportunities and assist in writing bids for research grant applications. Prepare proposals and applications to both external</td>
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and/or internal bodies for funding, contractual or accreditation purposes.

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<th>Engagement, Communication and Continuation Responsibilities:</th>
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<tr>
<td>▪ To write up research work for publication and/or contribute to the dissemination at national/international conferences, resulting in successful research outputs.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ To collaborate with academic colleagues on areas of shared interest for example, course development, collaborative or joint research projects.</td>
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<th>Teaching:</th>
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<td>▪ You are expected to make a contribution to teaching that is in balance with wider contributions to research and other activities.</td>
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<td>▪ Ability to creatively apply relevant research approaches, models, techniques and methods.</td>
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<td>▪ Ability to build relationships and collaborate with others, both internally and externally.</td>
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<td>▪ High analytical ability to analyse and illuminate data, interpret reports, evaluate and criticise texts and bring new insights.</td>
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▪ Degree or equivalent in relevant subject area, such as health, behavioural or computer science or media studies. |
| Other | ▪ Willingness to adopt the Ethos and Principles of the School of Medicine. |

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Expectations and behaviours

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Valuing people
Is always equitable and fair and works with integrity. Proactively looks for ways to develop the team and is comfortable providing clarity by explaining the rationale behind decisions.

Taking ownership
Is highly self-aware, looking for ways to improve, both taking on board and offering constructive feedback. Inspires others to take accountability for their own areas.

Forward thinking
Driven to question the status quo and explore new ideas, supporting the team to “lead the way” in terms of know-how and learning.

Professional pride
Sets the bar high with quality systems and control measures in place. Demands high standards of others identifying and addressing any gaps to enhance the overall performance.

Always inclusive
Ensures accessibility to the wider community, actively encouraging inclusion and seeking to involve others. Ensures others always consider the wider context when sharing information making full use of networks and connections.

Key relationships with others

Line manager
Role holder
Key stakeholder relationships

Associate Professor
Research Associate/Fellow

Colleagues
Students