Role profile

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Job title</th>
<th>Research Fellow</th>
<th>Job family and level</th>
<th>Research and Teaching Level 4</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School/Department</td>
<td>School of Sociology and Social Policy</td>
<td>Location</td>
<td>University Park campus</td>
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Purpose of role

The purpose of this role is to carry out research as part of the international project ‘Addressing Vaccine Hesitancy in Europe’ (VAX-TRUST) which started in March 2021 and runs until February 2024. The project focuses on specific Target Regions in seven European countries (Finland, Belgium, Poland, Czech Republic, Italy, Portugal and the UK). The project is funded by European Commission Horizon 2020 programme and is coordinated by the University of Tampere, Finland. The University of Nottingham is a partner in this research programme and the UK arm of the study is directed by Professor Pru Hobson-West. Pru has a long-term interest in the topic of vaccination, and extensive experience in the management of qualitative research projects.

VAX-TRUST involves a multi-method and multi-level analysis of vaccine hesitancy in relation to childhood vaccination, and explores the role of concepts such as risk, trust and expertise. The project is divided into several workpackages. The empirical work involved qualitative interviews with parents and healthcare professionals, and an analysis of national media coverage. This data collection and analysis is now complete. The role holder will use these findings to help design an ‘intervention’ for healthcare professionals. This intervention is likely to be an online tool. The role holder will also be involved in identifying policy recommendations, and in the dissemination of results. Key tasks will include writing reports for the funder (‘deliverables’), writing co-authored peer-reviewed journal publications, and working as part of an international team.

The person appointed will have the opportunity to gain experience in working on a high-profile topic, extend their national and international networks, gain skills in translating qualitative research into a healthcare intervention and policy recommendations, and develop their publication record.

Main responsibilities

(Primary accountabilities and responsibilities expected to fulfil the role)

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<th>% time per year</th>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>To be involved in writing and submitting project reports and journal articles for social science journals</th>
<th>30%</th>
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<td>2</td>
<td>To draw on existing social scientific project data and analysis to assist in the design of an online intervention for healthcare professionals involved in childhood vaccination. The aim of this intervention is to provide information</td>
<td>30%</td>
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about the social underpinnings of vaccine hesitancy, and is likely to be in the form of a Reusable Learning Object (see https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/helmopen/ for examples on other topics)

| 3 | To participate in *meetings* with the local project team, project advisors and the wider international project team. These meetings will usually be online but some limited international travel will be required (for example to a final project conference). Meetings will also be held with a local ‘evaluator’ who will work with the project team to ensure that the intervention can be evaluated. | 15% |

| 4 | To develop *recommendations* based on the project findings. Discuss these recommendations with local advisors via a small number (~5) of qualitative interviews. Help draft ethical approval applications for the School of Sociology and Social Policy ethics committee for these interviews. | 15% |

| 5 | To be involved in wider *dissemination* activities. These activities will include updating text for websites and social media, writing conference presentations and press releases, and helping to translate project findings into advice for the teaching of healthcare students in higher education. | 10% |
### Person specification

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<th>Essential</th>
<th>Desirable</th>
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| **Skills**                | ▪ Excellent oral and written communication skills, including the ability to communicate with clarity on complex information.  
▪ Ability to write for different audiences, including social scientists, practitioners, and wider publics  
▪ Ability to build effective relationships and collaborate with others, including large teams, both internally and externally. | ▪ Awareness of ethical review processes.     |
| **Knowledge and experience** | ▪ Demonstrable interest in vaccination/health policy  
▪ Experience of using qualitative research techniques  
▪ Experience of working with non-academic stakeholders.  
▪ Experience of writing journal papers for publication | ▪ Previous experience in, or understanding of, interventions and their evaluation in healthcare  
▪ Previous experience of international research collaboration |
| **Qualifications, certification and training (relevant to role)** | ▪ PhD in a social science discipline (sociology, geography etc)  
▪ PhD thesis which includes analysis of empirical data | ▪ PhD in medical sociology or science and technology studies |
| **Statutory, legal or special requirements** | ▪ Ability to engage across the different ethical perspectives on vaccination policy and practice, and ability to deal with sensitive information. | |

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 University is a signatory of the Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA). As such we commit to focus on the scientific content of publications (where requested or provided as part of the recruitment and selection process) as a basis for review of quality, and consideration of value and impact of research conducted, rather than any proxy measures such as Journal Impact Factor.
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

![Diagram showing key relationships with others]

- **Line manager**
- **Professor**
- **Role holder**
- **Research Fellow**
- **Key stakeholder relationships**
  - Research team at Nottingham
  - International research team
  - Healthcare profession