



Job title	Principal Research Fellow in Research Methods	Job family and level	Research & Teaching Level 6 (Research)
School/ Department	School of Medicine	Location	School of Medicine, Medical School Building, Queens Medical Centre

Purpose of role

We are looking for an experienced and enthusiastic Principal Research Fellow with expertise in quantitative research methods and/or clinical trials to take a senior role in the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) Research Support Service (RSS Hub) delivered by University of Leicester and Partners. This post will be based at the University of Nottingham. You will be responsible for the leadership of the RSS team based at Nottingham, supporting the development, strategic management and expert delivery of activities across the hub and nationally.

NIHR has awarded £8.5 million to an East Midlands partnership, comprising more than 20 research groups, including the University of Nottingham, to deliver one of eight new hubs of the NIHR RSS. The NIHR RSS will provide researchers, especially those applying for, and in receipt of, NIHR funding, access to support, advice and expertise in clinical and applied health and care research.

The RSS Hub will work with research teams across England to develop and deliver high-quality research that addresses important health and social care challenges. The Hub will contribute significantly to the nation’s research capacity and capability by providing rapid access to methodological and design expertise and opportunities for collaboration with world-class research groups and clinical trials units.

You will join a thriving research community within the School of Medicine, with opportunities to link with the UKCRC-registered Nottingham Clinical Trials Unit to design and conduct high quality, high impact clinical trials. You will be a research leader with an established national, and increasing international, reputation and a successful record of leading and collaborating with multidisciplinary research teams to deliver applied health and social care research.

Hub advisors and professional services staff are based within the School of Medicine’s Research and Knowledge Exchange Service, which provides strategic support to the School for all research strategy, operations and development activities aligned closely with the work of the Research and Knowledge Exchange Committee and the University Research Strategy.

As well as providing advice and support to research teams, you will have a significant leadership role within the School of Medicine. You will participate in academic organisation, management and strategic planning and will also contribute to the University’s strategic planning processes. You will act as investigator on major research projects within clinical and applied health and care research and will identify opportunities for the development of new research projects. You will have line management responsibilities, including responsibility for the professional development of RSS staff at the University of Nottingham.

	Main responsibilities	% time
--	------------------------------	---------------

	(Primary accountabilities and responsibilities expected to fulfil the role)	per year
1	<p>Leadership and management of the RSS Hub team in Nottingham</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Act as the Nottingham Site Lead to lead, monitor and continually improve the services offered by the NIHR RSS Hub delivered by the University of Leicester and Partners. • Provide academic and organisational leadership to RSS Hub staff based at the University of Nottingham by, for example, managing workload and resources to ensure the effective support and delivery of research projects, agreeing objectives and work plans with the team, and resolving problems affecting staff performance or experience. • Be an active member of the management team for the RSS Hub working with the University of Leicester and partners, attending meetings and bringing strategic leadership. • Contribute to the leadership, planning and delivery of service improvement projects locally, regionally, and nationally. • Act as a line manager (including performance review, training and career development) and personal mentor to peers and colleagues, where appropriate, and provide expert advice and coaching to colleagues and students internally and externally. • Be responsible for the delivery of RSS activities and services, including achievement of KPIs. 	30%
2	<p>Research development within RSS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer high-quality research advice and feedback on applications to clients of the RSS Hub (through one-to-one consultancy, multi-disciplinary meetings, and individual and panel review). • Participate in regular team meetings and discussion with colleagues in the RSS regarding project support and service development. • Develop and deliver events, workshops, and occasional seminars, as required, to promote the RSS and NIHR funding opportunities. • Plan and deliver learning activities to promote research design, delivery, and dissemination. • Promote and help to embed equality, diversity and inclusion and patient and public involvement in research led within the School of Medicine and supported by the RSS Hub. • Establish/maintain collaborations with other researchers at the University of Nottingham, across the RSS Hub, and nationally and internationally. • Help to establish and maintain productive relationships with NHS, social care, public health and National Institute for Health and Care Research groups, units, and networks. 	30%

3	<p>Research and contribution to the School's research community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and sustain an ongoing national, and emerging international, reputation as a research leader in applied health and social care research, through original research work. • Act as investigator on major research projects, particularly those supported by the RSS Hub. • Lead and support major funding bids which develop and sustain research support for a specialist area within applied health and social care research which aligns with the research priorities of the School of Medicine and develop research initiatives to foster collaboration and generate income. • Investigate and devise new research methods, generate new research approaches or techniques, and contribute generally to the development of thought and practice in applied health and social care research. • Disseminate and explain research findings through peer-reviewed national and international publications, producing research output which will be considered to be of international excellence in the Research Excellence Framework (REF). • Contribute to the development of research strategies in the School of Medicine. • Contribute to the research community of the School of Medicine through active engagement in cross-School initiatives and the work of the School Research and Knowledge Exchange Committee. • Represent the School of Medicine on committees and working groups in the wider University and outside of the University and manage or monitor assets and budgets allocated as part of the role, as requested by the Head of School or nominee. 	30%
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You are expected to make a contribution to teaching that is in balance with wider contributions to research and other activities 	10%
5	<p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Any other duties as appropriate to the grade and level of the post. ▪ We recognise the importance of continuous professional development and therefore the importance of providing opportunities, structured support and encouragement to engage in professional development each year. 	N/A

Person specification

	Essential	Desirable
Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Exceptional knowledge and skills in quantitative research methods and/or clinical trials in health and social care research. ▪ Excellent oral and written communication skills, including the ability to communicate with clarity on complex information to people from different scientific disciplines and different institutions across the country. ▪ High level of proficiency in English. ▪ Ability to engage and communicate with non-researchers. ▪ Excellent IT skills, including use of analytic packages. ▪ Proven ability to provide effective leadership and management of groups. ▪ Proven ability with demonstrated success in obtaining NIHR and/or other sources of funding, providing effective leadership, planning, and building, resourcing a team and delivering research results. ▪ High analytical ability to facilitate conceptual thinking, innovation and creativity. ▪ Strong work ethic and ability to contribute effectively as part of a team and independently. ▪ Excellent time management and organisational skills with the ability to work to tight deadlines. ▪ Ability to work flexibly as required and to cope with rapid change. 	
Knowledge and experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Deep understanding and significant experience of the role of quantitative methods in health and social care research, with wide-ranging knowledge of alternative data collection approaches. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Record of peer-reviewed publications involving methods review or development. ▪ An understanding of University management systems and the wider higher education environment.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Extensive track record of published research, research impact, successful consultancy activities and/or delivery of specialist services to external customers/clients. ▪ Extensive research experience with an established national and growing international reputation in the field of applied health and social care research. ▪ Demonstrable substantial contribution to high quality publications, considered to be of international excellence within the Research Excellence Framework (REF). ▪ Extensive experience in developing and devising new research programmes, models, techniques and methods. ▪ Proven record of promoting and maintaining collaborative links with industry/business/community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Record of teaching, training and/or student supervision. ▪ Experience as member of a funding awards committee. ▪ Experience of strategic leadership and supporting teams through change.
Qualifications, certification and training (relevant to role)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ PhD or equivalent in an area relevant to applied health and social care and/or equivalent extensive professional and research experience. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Membership or Fellowship of a relevant professional body.
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Willingness to adopt the vision and values of the School of Medicine. 	



Athena SWAN Silver Award



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** Understands that it is essential to provide a structure that people can thrive in. Knows how to communicate with people to create a healthy working environment and get the best out of people.
- Taking ownership** Communicates vision clearly, providing direction and focus. Knows how to create a productive environment where people are inspired and can work cross-departmentally in partnership.
- Forward thinking** Has the ambition to be a pioneer in own area, anticipating the future change, needs and challenges. Knows how to innovate within their work context and champions others to be inspired to be part of this ambition
- Professional pride** Keeps up to date on latest thinking, trends and work practices. Supports team to be thought leaders; willing to challenge if obstacles get in the way.
- Always inclusive** Establishes far reaching partnerships, well beyond own area across a broad range of networks. Understand role to pay due regard to the needs of the whole community.

Key relationships with others

