Job title	Research Assistant	Job family and level	Research and Teaching, level 4a
School/ Department	School of Medicine/ Mental Health & Clinical Neurosciences	Location	Institute of Mental Health Building, Jubilee Campus

Purpose of role

The purpose of this role will be to assist and support the Digital Youth research team in carrying out academic research which include literature searches, designing and developing questionnaires and workshop materials, liaising with young people involved in co-production workshops, conducting surveys, carrying out analyses and tests and drafting of reports. The NIHR MindTech MedTech Co-operative was formed in 2013 to accelerate the development and evaluation of new technology to address unmet clinical needs related to mental health.

You will join an established team, led by Professor Chris Hollis, whose main areas of research interest include child and adolescent psychiatry and digital mental health.

You will contribute to the Medical Research Council (MRC) Digital Youth Programme and will specifically be working on Work Package 6: SPARX-UK Trial, and Work Package 8: CaTS-App tool to support young people who self-harm. The SPARX (Smart, Positive, Active, Realistic, X-factor thoughts) pilot, feasibility trial is examining the feasibility of conducting a future definitive randomised controlled trial of a digital serious game for adolescents with mild to moderate depression.

CaTS-APP is developing a digital version of an established research tool to be used in clinical or other frontline settings. We are co-creating and testing a prototype tool with young people, practitioners and computer scientists to support improved identification, understanding and support for self-harm in young people.

The School of Medicine 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.

To find out more about the School of Medicine, its values, vision, teaching and research, please see our further information leaflet.

	Main responsibilities (Primary accountabilities and responsibilities expected to fulfil the role)	% time per year
1	**Research:** • To undertake supervised research in investigating the use of digital technology for mental health in children and adolescents, which may include planning, preparing, setting up, conducting, and recording the	60%

		outcome of experiments and fieldwork, developing questionnaires and conducting surveys. • Contribute to data analysis and presentation of data for varied audiences • Support the SPARX-UK trial manager in maintaining the trial master file • Contacting families to participate in the trial • Writing letters to clinicians and families relating to the trial. • Conducting baseline and follow up assessments using standardised outcome measures. • 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. • To work in conjunction with others in the research team to achieve the research project objectives within the required timeline. • Support project investigators in developing multimedia intervention materials for online platforms (e.g., animated videos, text, pictures) • Collaborate with external partner in developing online therapy platform. • Support the Principal Investigator in preparing for ethical submission/approval (including supporting with preparing the protocol, consent forms, information sheets for patients). • Designing and developing workshop materials. • Support with patient and public involvement activities, including early user testing of the platform and liaising with young people involved in co-production workshops. • Support in coordinating team meetings • Take a lead in producing consent forms and wellness packs for participants.	
2	**Engagement and Communication:** • 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. • To communicate information and ideas to students and advise and assist other staff/students within area of expertise. • To build relationships with internal and external contacts to develop knowledge and understanding and form relationships for future collaborations. • Disseminating research to academic and lay audiences Contribute to the presentation of research results at national/international conferences, resulting in successful research outputs. • To communicate findings to patient and public members (including young people) in creative and engaging ways e.g. creating infographics. • Creating website content to share with various audiences. • Work effectively with MindTech partners (including industry and charities) as well as colleagues across the academic sector to support the SPARX-UK trial and CaTS-APP project. • Support in writing reports to the trial funder. • Writing letters to clinicians and families communicating aspects of the SPARX-UK and CaTS-APP projects.	30%

	• Creating content and updating the relevant pages on the Digital Youth website to share updates with stakeholders.	
3	**Development:** • 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.	10%
4	**Other:** • Any duties as required in accordance with the nature and grade of the post.	N/A

Person specification

	Essential	Desirable
Skills	• Excellent oral and written communication skills, including the ability to communicate with clarity on complex information. • Ability to communicate with families (parents and adolescents) with mental health issues. • Evidence of sufficient breadth or depth of clinical research methodologies and techniques. • Developing research skills. • Ability to use software packages. • Ability to build relationships and collaborate with others, internally and externally. • Ability to contribute to method improvement. • Analytical ability to facilitate conceptual thinking, innovation and creativity.	• Demonstrates a desire to further develop skills and knowledge of research methods and techniques.
Knowledge and experience	• Experience of engaging or working with children/adolescents.	• Some practical experience of applying the specialist skills approaches and techniques required for the role. • Evidence of working with children/adolescents in mental health or research settings. • Experience/knowledge of working within CAMHS. • Experience of using technical software packages to develop graphics/website content and multimedia (e.g., Adobe Photoshop/Premiere, Wordpress, GIMP, Affinity Designer/Photo, Videoscrive, audio-editing software, Miro.

Qualifications, certification and training (relevant to role)	• Degree or equivalent in Psychology or health sciences.	• Master's Degree, or equivalent in Psychology or health sciences.
Statutory, legal or special requirements	• Satisfactory enhanced disclosure obtained from the Disclosure and Barring Service.	
Other	• Willingness to adopt the vision and values of the School of Medicine.	

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

Line manager	Research Fellow
Role holder	**Research Assistant**
Key stakeholder relationships	MindTech Research Group / Colleagues / Students