Job title	Research Assistant	Job family and level	Research and Teaching Level 4a
School/ Department	School of Health Sciences	Location	Institute of Mental Health

Purpose of role

The purpose of this role is to assist the Chief Investigator (Prof Mike Slade) with all aspects of the NIHR-funded 'Recovery Colleges Characterisation and Testing 2' (RECOLLECT 2) study (Award ID: NIHR200605). RECOLLECT 2 is investigating how Recovery Colleges can provide the most benefit to people who use mental health services and is run jointly by University of Nottingham and King's College London.

The post-holder will gain substantial experience in a wide range of research methodologies, including qualitative data collection, longitudinal study design, standardised measures, and outcome/economic evaluation. Data collection will give contact with a range of mental health stakeholders, including people using services, their family/informal carers, clinicians, and managers. The post-holder will also obtain transferable skills, including international collaborations, working with people with lived experience of mental ill-health and recovery, managers within the NHS, and Good Clinical Practice. Career development support will be offered, including involvement in writing academic papers.

This research post will involve working with other RECOLLECT 2 researchers based at University of Nottingham and King's College London (KCL). The post is based at, and line managed through University of Nottingham, with supervision from the KCL-based Research Associate (Dr Tesnime Jebara / Dr Mariam Namasaba, programme co-ordinator) and frequent liaison with the KCL-based co-Chief Investigator (Prof Claire Henderson) and other study researchers.

This post will be of particular interest to people wishing to develop their experience and competence in mental health service research. The ideal candidate will have a strong commitment to personal recovery (whether developed through personal experience of mental illness and recovery or through previous work in the area) and a demonstrable interest in mental health research and the ability to engage creatively and productively with mental health service users, workers and managers.

The post-holder will join the world-leading Recovery Research Team (researchintorecovery.com) in the School of Health Sciences, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, University of Nottingham and be based in the Institute of Mental Health.

	Main responsibilities (Primary accountabilities and responsibilities expected to fulfil the role)	% time per year
1	**Research** ▪ To collect and analyse qualitative and quantitative follow-up data with participating students of Recovery Colleges, including through online communication and site visits ▪ To liaise frequently through email and planned tele- or video-conferences with collaborators in the study, and to attend study meetings ▪ To work in conjunction with others in the research team, achieve objectives and deadlines of the research project ▪ To prepare and present papers on research progress and outcomes to relevant groups including external bodies ▪ To support operational aspects of the RECOLLECT study, including providing data for study monitoring, and ensuring deadlines are met	90%
2	**Knowledge Mobilisation** ▪ To contribute to the production of research reports and publications for peer review ▪ To support knowledge mobilisation activities ▪ To communicate information and ideas to others and advise and assist others within area of expertise ▪ To build relationships with internal and external contacts to develop knowledge and understanding and form relationships for future collaborations	10%

Person specification

	Essential	Desirable
Skills	▪ Excellent oral and written communication skills, including the ability to communicate with clarity on complex information ▪ Ability to interact sensitively and professionally with people who use, work in and manage mental health services ▪ Ability to build relationships and collaborate with others, internally and externally ▪ High proficiency in IT (Word, Excel, database use) ▪ Analytical ability to facilitate conceptual thinking, innovation and creativity ▪ Strong motivating and influencing skills ▪ Ability to work autonomously, exhibit initiative and manage own workload ▪ Highly organised, able to work effectively on a complex project and prioritise tasks	▪ Skills in accessing, cleaning and analysing routine NHS data e.g. through CRIS ▪ Academic writing skills, evidenced by peer-reviewed publications

	▪ Able to work well in a team	
Knowledge and experience	▪ Expertise in research design and knowledge of many of the research methods to be used, including qualitative and quantitative survey, pre-post designs, observational cohort designs ▪ Experience of conducting qualitative interviews ▪ Experience of using standardised measures ▪ Experience and knowledge of both research and health care systems ▪ Experience of analysing qualitative and/or quantitative data	▪ Demonstrable evidence of high-quality writing for academic and practitioner audiences, with evidence of ability to publish at national level (to include conference and working papers) ▪ Familiarity with academic environments ▪ Personal experience of mental illness, its impact (on self or others) and of recovery ▪ Experience of mental health services research ▪ Familiarity and/or use of Recovery Colleges
Qualifications, certification and training (relevant to role)	▪ Good first degree or equivalent in a relevant social science or health related discipline (2:1 or higher)	▪ Relevant postgraduate qualification (e.g. Masters) and/or clinical qualification
Other	▪ Able to travel to other research sites ▪ A genuine interest in mental health recovery ▪ Career goals which demonstrate motivation for a mental health research or clinical-academic role	

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

Professor of Mental Health Recovery and Social Inclusion

Role holder

Research Assistant

Key stakeholder relationships

Co-PI (KCL) | Research Fellow (KCL) | Research Assistants (KCL and Nottingham) | Recovery College Service Users and Managers