



Job title	Research Assistant	Job family and level	Research and Teaching, level 4a / level 4
School/ Department	Centre of Rehabilitation and Ageing Research, Injury, Recovery and Inflammation Sciences School of Medicine	Location	The East Midlands Campuses of the University of Nottingham

Purpose of role

The purpose of this role will be to assist and support the Techniques to Enable safe and dignified drinking in Adults with dysphagia (TEA) study research team in carrying out academic research which include literature searches, developing questionnaires, conducting surveys, carrying out analyses and tests and drafting of reports and publications. The research is funded by the HTA/NIHR and commences in June 2026 for two years. The TEA study aims to find the most promising compensatory interventions for dysphagia to inform a future clinical trial to test effectiveness. It includes a series of projects, a survey, a qualitative research project, a literature review and a consensus project.

You will join an established team, led by Dr Jacqui Benfield, whose main areas of research interest include the assessment, management and rehabilitation of dysphagia.

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, 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. - 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.	60%



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	30%
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 appropriate to the grade and level 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. - Evidence of sufficient breadth or depth of research methodologies and techniques to work in research area. - Developing research skills. - Ability to contribute to method improvement. - Analytical ability to facilitate conceptual thinking, innovation and creativity. - Ability to build relationships and collaborate with others, internally and externally.	Demonstrates a desire to further develop skills and knowledge of research methods and techniques.
Knowledge and experience		Some practical experience of applying the specialist skills approaches and techniques required for the role.



		- Evidence in use of research methodologies and techniques to work within research area. - Knowledge or experience of dysphagia
Qualifications, certification and training (relevant to role)	Degree or equivalent in relevant subject area (medicine, healthcare, rehabilitation).	Master's Degree, or equivalent in relevant subject area (research methods).
Statutory, legal or special requirements	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

