

Research Role Profile

Job Title:	Research Fellow in Qualitative Methods
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Responsible to:	Lydia Poole, Principal Investigator
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Responsible for:	Not applicable
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Job Summary and Purpose:
To undertake research in accordance with the specified research project(s) under the supervision of the principal investigator.

Main Responsibilities/Activities
<p>To undertake a range of research activities within a specified research area, assuming responsibility for specific areas of projects and making use of new research techniques and methods, in consultation with the research award holder or supervisor. This may include fieldwork, interviews, laboratory experimentation, critical evaluation and interpretation, computer-based data analysis and evaluation or library research.</p> <p>Using initiative and creativity to identify areas for research develop new research methods and extend the research portfolio. Analysing and interpreting results of own research. Write up results and prepare papers for submission to appropriate journals and conferences, and other outputs as required and/or appropriate. Attend appropriate conferences for the purpose of disseminating research results of personal development. The post holder may also contribute to writing bids for research grants and will contribute to collaborative decision making with colleagues in areas of research.</p> <p>Continually update knowledge and develop skills and translate knowledge of advances in the area into research activity.</p> <p>To plan and manage own research activity in collaboration with others. To carry out administrative tasks associated with specified research funding, for example risk assessment of research activities, organisation of project meetings and documentation. Implementation of procedures required to ensure accurate and timely formal reporting and financial control.</p> <p>To contribute to teaching in the Faculty by carrying out student supervision and/or demonstrating within the post holder's area of expertise and under the direct guidance of a member of departmental academic staff, as appropriate.</p> <p>The post holder may occasionally be required to supervise more junior research staff.</p>

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Person Specification

The post holder must have:

A doctoral degree in a relevant discipline (although individuals who have almost completed a doctoral degree may be appointed). Consideration may also be given to individuals who do not hold a doctoral degree but have required skills based on a number of years' experience in specified / relevant fields.

The post holder will have authority over some aspects of project work and must be capable of providing academic judgement, offering original and creative thoughts and be able to interpret and analyse results.

Relationships and Contacts

Direct responsibility to the principal investigator or academic supervisor. The post holder may be asked to serve on a relevant Faculty committee. There may be additional reporting and liaison responsibilities to external funding bodies or sponsors. The post holder may work on original research tasks with colleagues in other institutions.

Special Requirements

To be available to participate in fieldwork as required by the specified research project.

All staff are expected to:

- Positively support equality of opportunity and equity of treatment to colleagues and students in accordance with the University of Surrey Equal Opportunities policy.
- Help maintain a safe working environment by:
 - Attending training in Health and Safety requirements as necessary, both on appointment and as changes in duties and techniques demand.
 - Following local codes of safe working practices and the University of Surrey Health and Safety Policy.
- Undertake such other duties within the scope of the post as may be requested by your Manager.

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Addendum

This document provides additional information relating to both specific aspects of the post/faculty and any post specific person specification criteria. The information contained within this document should always be read in conjunction with the accompanying generic Role Profile.

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Background Information/Relationships

We are looking to appoint two postdoctoral researchers that will play a pivotal role in shaping an exciting mixed methods project funded by the NIHR. The project is a collaboration between the University of Surrey, UCL, KCL, University of Warwick and North Thames NHS Trust and the postholders will be expected to work closely with co-investigators across these institutions.

This project will investigate inequalities in antidepressant prescribing in primary care for the South Asian diaspora. The two postholders will be responsible for leading several strands of qualitative work using methods to include a think-aloud study, a patient-GP dyad study as well as focus groups with GPs and interviews with community members and stakeholders.

Duties will include participant recruitment, data collection, keeping meticulous records of participant retention, working with our PPI and governance representatives, data analysis and writing for publication. As part of the grant, we have a range of dissemination and stakeholder events and the postholders will also be expected to support in the set-up and delivery of these.

The postholders will be required to build working relationships with community organisations and NHS sites in order to support data collection. Therefore, experience of working with diverse communities and speaking a South Asian language(s) in addition to English would be an advantage.

The wider project will include secondary data analysis of UK Biobank but statistical experience is not a requirement of these advertised roles. However, experience of mixed methods research is desirable.

We are looking for individuals able to work and think independently as well as interact positively with colleagues and collaborators. Your PhD could be in psychology, sociology, or related subjects. Competency in qualitative analysis and scientific writing (as evidenced by authorship of peer-reviewed publications) is essential.

Person Specification

This section describes the sum total of knowledge, experience & competence required by the post holder that is necessary for standard acceptable performance in carrying out this role. This is in addition to the criteria contained within the accompanying generic Role Profile.

	Essential/ Desirable
1. Qualitative research experience, including interview and focus group methods.	E
2. Research interest in depression, mental health, and/or primary care.	E
3. PhD in psychology, sociology, or related discipline.	E
4. Qualitative analysis skills, including use of NVivo.	E

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5. Ability to work independently to pre-agreed deadlines.	E
6. Ability to critically appraise the literature through systematic review.	D
7. Evidence of published papers in peer-reviewed journals.	E
8. Professional experience of engaging with community organisations or other community stakeholders.	D
9. Experience of researching sensitive topics and/or research involving diverse communities.	D
10. South Asian language(s) in addition to English.	D
11. Mixed methods research experience and/or statistical analysis knowledge	D

Key Responsibilities

This document is not designed to be a list of all tasks undertaken but an outline record of any faculty/post specific responsibilities (5 to 8 maximum). This should be read in conjunction with those contained within the accompanying generic Role Profile.

1. Conduct rigorous research independently.
2. Keep meticulous records.
3. Take ownership of the project.
4. Supervise and train junior staff as required.
5. Present at national meetings.
6. Analyse data and contribute to the preparation of manuscripts and grant applications.

N.B. The above list is not exhaustive.