

Research Role Profile

Job Title:	Research Fellow
Responsible to:	Dr Joanna Moss
Responsible for:	Not applicable

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 to 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 Psychology.

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 travel to and 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.

Addendum

Job Title:

Research Fellow in Psychology

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The Project

This project will be conducted at the University of Surrey as part of the Cerebra Network, funded by Cerebra. The Cerebra Network aims to identify and reduce the contribution of mental health difficulties, poor sleep, autism characteristics and pain and discomfort to negative outcomes in children with complex needs due to intellectual disability associated with rare genetic syndromes and/or autism. This ambitious programme of research will be led from four research sites, University of Surrey (Dr Jo Moss), University of Birmingham (Professor Caroline Richards), Aston University (Dr Jane Waite) and University of Warwick (Dr Hayley Crawford).

The programme of research being led at Surrey will focus on understanding and identifying complex patterns of autism in children with genetic syndromes.

There are 1.5 million people with an intellectual disability (ID) in the UK and over half of these present with intellectual disability associated with either a rare genetic syndrome or a co-occurring condition such as autism.

Children with genetic syndromes associated with ID are more likely to show characteristics of autism relative to other children with ID who do not have a genetic syndrome and to the wider general population. Despite this increased likelihood, recognition of autism and related characteristics as part of clinical practice is significantly reduced in this population, leading to poorer long-term wellbeing outcomes for people with genetic syndromes and their families.

The programme of research will: 1. evaluate clinician perspectives and experiences of assessment and diagnosis of autism in children within this population and 2. evaluate child and family factors associated with autism characteristics and autism clinical diagnostic outcomes in children with rare genetic syndromes associated with ID.

The Role and its Responsibilities

You will be part of a strong network of expert researchers in the field of behavioural phenotypes and neurodevelopmental conditions

You will carry out administrative tasks related directly to the delivery of the research e.g., recruitment of participants, preparation of manuscripts for publication (at least one first author paper is envisaged), organisation of project meetings and documentation.

You will use and support other team member's use on a range of research methods including informant questionnaire surveys, interviews and behavioural observation methods.

You will be responsible for data coding and initial data analyses.

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You will communicate with NHS services and clinicians to support participant recruitment and dissemination of the research.

You will communicate with families and stakeholders to ensure effective dissemination of the work, as well as traditional scientific communication via academic papers (at least one first author paper is envisaged) and conferences.

You will contribute to the wider Network of research, working closely with a PhD student at the University of Surrey and co-ordinating research activities with PhD students and post-doctoral researchers across the Network.

You will deal with challenges that may affect the achievement of research objectives and deadlines, such as recruitment and data sharing.

You will be responsible to Dr Jo Moss, School of Psychology, University of Surrey. The post will be based in the Department of Psychological Sciences, within the University's School of Psychology, Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences.

You are welcome to contact Dr Jo Moss (j.moss@surrey.ac.uk) if you would like to have further information or would like to discuss the post.

Person Specification]

Qualifications and Professional Memberships	Essential/ Desirable
Achieved at least a 2.1 degree in Psychology or closely-related discipline.	Essential
A PhD in Psychology that is relevant to the subject area	Essential
Experience of working with clinicians and other professionals who work with children with intellectual disability and their families to collect research data.	Essential
Experience of statistical analysis (e.g. using SPSS, R, or other software)	Essential
The ability to write clearly and concisely with a good publication record commensurate with the level of your career.	Essential
Experience in conducting standardised assessments and other cognitive and behavioural measures with children.	Essential
Experience of reporting findings of assessments to parents, carers and professionals.	Essential

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The ability to work independently, as well as proven ability to work collaboratively as part of a research team.		Essential
Ability to contribute to the planning and organising of the research programme and/or specific research project		Essential
Ability to co-ordinate own work with others to avoid conflict or duplication of effort		Essential
Understanding of and ability to contribute to broader management/administration processes		Essential
Ability to assess resource requirements and to use resources effectively		Essential
Experience of conducting research within an NHS context		Desirable
Experience of working with large datasets and longitudinal data		Desirable
Familiarity with open science practices.		Desirable
Special Requirements	Essential/ Desirable	Level 1-3
Eligible to work with children (a DBS will be required).	E	
Key Responsibilities		
<p>You will be required to</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Contribute to the day-to-day management of the research, in line with the agreed objectives of the project to ensure that goals are achieved. 2. Contact NHS clinical services, clinicians and professionals working within the NHS to support recruitment and data collection activities. 3. Train and support other team members on using standardised measures to collect research data. 4. Contribute to data collection activities with children where needed, including travelling to assessment sessions. 5. Communicate and work collaboratively alongside other researchers and students involved in the Network in order to achieve common research objectives. 6. Communicate and collaborate with other researchers and professionals in the field. 7. Supervise part-time research assistants and honorary researchers involved in the project. 8. Comply with ethical procedures and data protection requirements. 9. Score and code data. 10. Analyse data under supervision of the PI and Co-Is. 11. Contribute to report writing, presentations, publications. 12. Contribute to dissemination materials aimed at parents, carers and professionals. 		

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13. Support open science activities including preparation of data for archiving.
14. To undertake such other duties as may be reasonably requested and that are commensurate with the nature and grade of the post.

N.B. The above list is not exhaustive.