

Institute of Cellular Medicine

Research Assistant/Associate Mixed Methods Methodologist

Grade: F

Vacancy Ref: A100329R

Main Purpose

The NIHR Newcastle In Vitro Diagnostics Co-operative (NIHR Newcastle IVD Co-operative, one of eleven NIHR MICs) is funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and is a partnership between the NIHR, the Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (NuTH) and Newcastle University.

The remit of the NIHR MICs is to be a catalyst for the development of evidence on IVDs (in vitro diagnostics). The focus is on research that produces evidence to assist manufacturers in bringing their product to the market (or academics to evaluate diagnostics in their research), and that would assist NHS commissioners in making investment decisions.

There will be opportunities to actively contribute to funding applications for development of new evaluation methodologies. The post-holder will be encouraged and supported in developing and growing their role in line with their interests (and those of the NIHR Newcastle IVD Co-operative).

Main Duties and Responsibilities

Under the guidance of the NIHR Newcastle IVD Co-operative Director and Deputy Director, and reporting to the Senior Methodologists, the successful candidate may :

1. Assist in developing study protocols for evaluating clinical tests and medical devices while working directly with the diagnostics industry, clinicians/researchers, and other NIHR-funded research infrastructure.
2. Work within multi-disciplinary teams to provide support to Newcastle IVD Co-operative projects evaluating clinical tests and medical devices. This includes contributing to study designs and analysis plans; quantitative and qualitative data collection; data management, analysis and interpretation of results; and reporting and dissemination of findings.
3. Proactively seek out advice from relevant experts, NHS commissioners and regulators, and then map out efficient routes to product adoption that take account of the key barriers and facilitators.
4. Develop good working relationships with collaborators, for example within other University institutes, NuTH, the NICE External Assessment Centre, and the Academic Health Science Network (AHSN) for the North East and North Cumbria.
5. With the project lead, support and manage the “patient, public, and service provider engagement and involvement” activities for the project.
6. Actively contribute to internal meetings and other events as appropriate.
7. Prepare and deliver presentations for local, national, or international scientific meetings.

8. Contribute to the advancement of the qualitative and quantitative methodologies used to evaluate clinical tests and medical devices throughout product development.
9. Adhere to the principles of reproducible research in all NIHR Newcastle IVD Co-operative projects and support the development of a rigorous process of internal peer review for study design, analysis, and reporting.
10. Supervision, with guidance, of undergraduate research projects, and in providing support to postgraduate research students and Research Assistants.
11. Identify and undertake a programme of professional development (in collaboration with senior staff), including further training in research methods and other transferable skills
12. Develop an awareness of University and NuTH/NHS/NIHR structures, policies, procedures, and issues relevant to activities within the Newcastle IVD Co-operative.

Research Role Profile

As part of our commitment to career development for research staff, the University has developed 3 levels of research role profiles. These profiles set out firstly the generic competences and responsibilities expected of role holders at each level and secondly the general qualifications and experiences needed for entry at a particular level. It is unlikely that any single member of staff will be applying all these competences at any one time but he or she would be expected to display most of them over a period of time.

Please follow this link to our [Research Role Profiles](#)

Person Specification

Knowledge (including qualifications)

Essential

- A postgraduate degree in a relevant subject.
 - A PhD/DPhil is required for appointment at Associate level.
 - Relevant subjects include public health, health service research, epidemiology, behaviour change, health sciences, social science, economics, healthcare market research, or statistics. A postgraduate degree in one of the allied health professions with evidence of knowledge and skills in research methods would also be regarded as relevant.
- Applied knowledge of mixed methods, evidenced by authorship of peer-reviewed publications.

Desirable

- Experience in clinical studies/trials of clinical tests, medical devices, or drugs.
- Knowledge of the regulatory requirements for research evaluating clinical tests and medical devices and/or drugs.
- Knowledge of the principles of reproducible research.

Skills (professional, technical, managerial, practical)

Essential

(evidenced by examples from previous employment and research projects)

- Excellent verbal and non-verbal communication skills, and excellent interpersonal skills, including the ability to appropriately tailor communication to patients, clinicians, health services commissioners, and diverse groups of academics.
- Respect for the confidentiality of patient, client, and colleague information, and adherence to the principles of data governance.
- Think and work independently and flexibly, and co-operatively with others. Identify and responsibly address opportunities for improvement.
- Good IT skills, including data management and analysis software, and office productivity applications for drafting documents, communicating electronically, and creating presentations.
- Proficiency in completing work on time, to budget, and meeting all appropriate milestones.
- Proficiency in explaining complex concepts with clarity and ease of understanding to non-experts; evidenced, for example, by authorship of patient information leaflets or contribution to patient and public engagement initiatives.
- Comfortable and competent in identifying and meeting learning needs, including keeping abreast of developments in mixed methods approaches to evaluating clinical tests and medical devices.

Desirable

- Evidence synthesis (from qualitative and quantitative research): develop search strategies, search relevant bibliographies, critically appraise and summarise the evidence; conduct meta-analyses.
- Generate new ideas and develop these for research and funding proposals.

Experience and Achievements (paid or unpaid)

Essential

- First person experience of primary data collection (qualitative or quantitative).
- Experience of using analytical software (statistical/quantitative and/or qualitative).
- Experience of publishing papers, at least one as first author.
- Experience of presenting at national or international scientific meetings.

Desirable

- Experience in the regulatory aspects of data management for medical research projects.
- Experience of recruiting participants in research studies, and involving study sites and participants.
- Experience with theory-guided research in healthcare research.
- Experience of managing recruitment of, or directly recruiting, patients or clinicians for research projects.

- Experience of conducting mixed methods (qualitative plus quantitative) research.
- Experience in evidence synthesis.
- Experience of obtaining information from datasets relevant for health economics evaluations.
- Experience of contributing to funding applications.

Other

Essential

- Aware of the ethical, governance, and regulatory issues involved in clinical research, minimally evidenced by, for example, NIHR GCP training.
- Demonstrates a self-motivated and self-directed approach.
- Prepared to travel to conduct study visits, workshops and interviews.

Desirable

- Wants to build the role, for example through funding applications to develop new methods or increase the capacity of the NIHR Newcastle IVD Co-operative.

For essential information on how to apply, visit our Job Vacancies web page at <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/vacancies/>