
Institute of Health & Society

Research Associate Grade: F

Ethnography of Ways to Wellness social prescribing community based intervention

Fixed-term appointment, 14 months full time, commencing as soon as possible

We are seeking a Research Associate experienced in ethnography and health research to join a multi-disciplinary team of researchers AT Newcastle University undertaking a large scale, mixed methods evaluation of Ways to Wellness (<https://waystowellness.org.uk/>) a social prescribing intervention. Developed over eight years by local health and voluntary sector organisations with input from patients and the public, Ways to Wellness involves referral to a trained 'Link Worker' who supports and empowers people to make healthier lifestyle choices, improve their health, self-care and quality of life. Funded by the National Institute of Health Research, this study, led by Dr Suzanne Moffatt, aims to evaluate the impact and costs of Ways to Wellness, a community-based Link Worker social prescribing intervention on the health and health care utilisation of adults aged 40-74 with type 2 diabetes, living in a multi-ethnic area of high socio-economic deprivation in Newcastle's West End. The ethnography, led by Dr Tessa Pollard at Durham University, is one of four work packages and will comprise observational research at multiple sites to describe how participants engage, leave and remain with the intervention; whether and how the intervention impacts on health and wellbeing and on family, friendships and community networks. This post is available full time for 14 months, or part time (min 60%) with a longer contract duration.

Main Duties and Responsibilities

1. To undertake ethnographic fieldwork as part of a larger-scale mixed methods study evaluating the impact of social prescribing on health and wellbeing.
2. To collect and analyse ethnographic data
3. To undertake literature reviewing
4. Work to deadlines and manage, with support, competing priorities
5. To contribute to a multi-disciplinary team
6. To contribute to writing for publications
7. To engage with relevant stakeholders, including service users, and staff employed in the community and voluntary sectors delivering the intervention
8. To attend meetings and other events as appropriate
9. To present results as required at local, national or international scientific meetings
10. To identify, in collaboration with senior staff, and undertake a programme of professional development, including further training in research methods and other transferable skills
11. To contribute to activities associated with the running and administration of the Institute, or perform other duties, as required by the Institute Director

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](#)

Newcastle University Institute for Ageing

The successful applicant will join a rapidly growing and dynamic group of highly interdisciplinary researchers based in the Institute of Health & Society and in Newcastle University Institute for Ageing (NUIA) (<http://www.ncl.ac.uk/ageing/>). The wider NUIA team includes biomedical researchers, general practitioners, dentists, dieticians, psychologists, social scientists, epidemiologists, public health practitioners and specialists in ageing care.

Social gerontology in Newcastle is in a particularly exciting phase of development. The University is already an acknowledged international centre for excellence in ageing research and has identified ageing as one of its three societal challenge themes (the others being social renewal and sustainability). The award of the Queen's Anniversary Prize in Ageing and Primary Care in 2010 was followed in 2014 by a £20M award from the government, matched by a £20M contribution from the University, to establish a National Centre for Ageing Science and Innovation. Work on social aspects of ageing has an increasing profile within the University and spans its three faculties. In addition to research undertaken in the Institute of Health & Society, this work involves teams based in the School of Architecture Planning and Landscape; School of Geography, Politics and Sociology; School of Arts and Cultures; and in the School of Computing Science (Open Lab).

The successful candidate will have close links and access to the Department of Anthropology at Durham University, as the ethnography work package is being led by Dr Tessa Pollard. Durham Anthropology has expertise in three balanced and overlapping sections: Medical, Social and Evolutionary Anthropology. This breadth of vision, combined with an ability to combine quantitative and qualitative approaches, makes us a leading anthropology department in the UK. Our vision is recognised internationally and increasingly emulated nationally. Our large and active Anthropology of Health Research Group hosts a number of labs, including our Parent Infant Sleep Lab, which was awarded The Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education in 2018. We are closely involved with the University's health research strategy via the Wolfson Research Institute for Health and Wellbeing.

Person Specification

Knowledge (including qualifications)

Essential

- PhD in a relevant social science discipline
- Undergraduate degree in a relevant subject

Skills (professional, technical, managerial, practical)

Essential

- Excellent (written and verbal) communication skills
- Ability to maintain confidentiality
- Ability to work flexibly and co-operatively with others, but also to work independently
- Excellent interpersonal skills
- IT literate
- Ability to prioritise key tasks
- Ability to meet deadlines and to manage conflicting priorities
- High level of analytical and problem solving skills
- Innovative and flexible in approach
- Ability to present complex information with clarity to academic and non academic audiences
- Success in writing research papers for publication in peer-reviewed journals

Experience and Achievements

Essential

- Experience of ethnographic fieldwork and analysis
- Experience of writing up ethnographic fieldwork
- Experience of writing for academic and non-academic audiences
- Awareness of ethical issues involved in ethnographic research
- Experience of qualitative analytical software
- Experience with mixed methods research
- Experience of carrying out research within agreed timelines, meeting project milestones and producing work to an appropriate standard

Desirable

- Experience of public engagement in research
- Experience of engaging the voluntary and community sectors in research

Other

Essential

- Must be prepared to work in an open plan office environment for a significant part of the working week

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