THE POST

College: University of Exeter Medical School [http://medicine.exeter.ac.uk/]
Post: Graduate Trainee / Assistant in Health Economics
Reference No: P57613
Grade: E
Reporting To: Professor Anne Spencer

The above full-time post is available immediately on a 3 year fixed term basis in the Health Economics Group, University of Exeter Medical School.

Job Description

The University of Exeter / Health Economics Group

The University of Exeter is a Russell Group university that combines world-class research with very high levels of student satisfaction. Exeter has over 21,000 students from more than 130 different countries and is in the top 1% of universities in the world with 98% of its research rated as being of international quality. Our research focuses on some of the most fundamental issues facing humankind today.

The Health Economics Group is one of 15 Groups working within the Institute of Health Research, University of Exeter Medical School (UEMS). UEMS is engaging in world leading research that has national and global impact. It is an exciting time for UEMS, as we look to capitalise on our success to date through ambitious plans to further strengthen our research excellence and to deliver a first-class student experience. Our ambition is to be driving major improvements in patient care and reductions in health risks in the population, underpinned by a substantial and sustainable critical mass of world leading researchers. We are continuing to invest in ambitious plans to grow, as a central priority of University strategy.

The Health Economics Group, led by Professor Colin Green and Professor Anne Spencer, conducts high impact policy-relevant research and provides quality education in order to advance the use of health economics to improve population health. Our aim is to contribute to health and healthcare in the UK and internationally by conducting research on economic aspects of health and disease. A key focus of our health economics research is to inform decisions around the delivery of health care from the evaluation of health interventions and systems to the exploration of factors that determine health and wellbeing.

Health Economics in Exeter is thriving and is a key discipline underpinning methodological and applied research in the Institute of Health Research, and more broadly across the University of Exeter Medical School and its internal and external partners. Working in the Health Economics Group you will have the opportunity to join exciting research collaborations with a range of local, regional, national and international partners, and our close internal and external links will provide excellent opportunities to interact with other economists, statisticians, operational research modellers, psychologists, clinicians, and a wide range of related scientists.

Research themes in the Health Economics Group:

- Application of economic principles to health and health care;
- Economic evaluation of health technologies (design, conduct and analysis of applied economic evaluations), and methodology for the conduct of economic evaluation;
- Evidence syntheses, using review methods and economic modelling;
- Measurement and valuation of health outcomes;
- Economics of population health (e.g. obesity, ageing, mental health, determinants of health, wellbeing);
- Equity in health and health care.
Current activities cover a wide range of applied and methodological projects, across many disease areas. The Group have a strong programme of research in the area of health outcomes, health valuation/preference elicitation, and a broad programme of work in neurodegenerative diseases, involving applied methodological research and economic evaluation. The Group works closely with the clinical trials unit/network, and has close links with applied methodologists (e.g. statistics, qualitative research, operational research/modelling). See http://medicine.exeter.ac.uk/research/healthserv/healtheconomics/ for a listing of projects and for further information.

**Main purpose of the job**

The aim of this position is to support the development of a talented individual, by providing the necessary support and training to become a specialist in health economics. This exciting new post will provide training and research experience in health economics, including an opportunity to study for a Masters in Health Economics, part-time or full time, whilst gaining valuable research experience in Health Economics over a range of projects taking place in the University of Exeter Medical School. The post has been created to increase capacity in health economics within the University of Exeter Medical School and offers good career prospects for the successful candidate.

The successful applicant will be looking for a career in academic research, will be ambitious, motivated, and have an undergraduate degree in a relevant area, ideally economics or a subject with economics as a major component, although those from other quantitative and/or health related disciplines (e.g. maths, statistics, operational research) are also encouraged to apply.

**Main duties and accountabilities:**

1. To support high quality health economics research, including where appropriate:
   - Undertaking a broad range of research activity according to the nature of the research project. For example developing questionnaires to capture costs and outcomes for feasibility and pilot studies, providing summary descriptive data analyses and comparison of costs and outcomes using excel or STATA;
   - Maintaining databases, keeping accurate written and computerised records and ensuring data is stored securely and managed in accordance with the Data Protection Act;
   - Conducting literature and database searches as required;
   - Writing up the results of own research;
   - Contributing to the production of research reports and publications;
   - Presenting information on research progress and outcomes to bodies supervising research, e.g. steering groups, sponsors or members of research groups;
   - Assisting in the preparation of papers or reports for steering groups and other bodies;
   - Making use of standard research techniques and methods;
   - Analysing and interpreting the results of own research and generating original ideas based on outcomes;
   - Contributing to the planning of future research projects.

2. To support teaching activity by assisting in the supervision of student projects and providing limited supervision or instruction to classes, if required.

3. To liaise with members of the research team and other colleagues as appropriate to the research project.

4. To establish internal and external contacts to develop knowledge and understanding and form networks for future collaboration.

5. To plan own day-to-day research activity within the framework of the agreed programme of research and co-ordinate own work with that of others in the group to avoid conflict or duplication of effort.

6. To use research resources and workshops as appropriate and to adhere to safety procedures as appropriate. This may include wearing personal protective equipment, conducting risk assessments, reducing hazards and being responsible for the health and safety of others.

7. To engage in continuous professional development and to be responsible for continually updating own knowledge and understanding in field of study or specialism and for developing own skills.
This job description summarises the main duties and accountabilities of the post and is not comprehensive: the post-holder may be required to undertake other duties of similar level and responsibility.

**Person Specification**

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<th>Competency</th>
<th>Essential</th>
<th>Desirable</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attainments/Qualifications</td>
<td>Undergraduate degree (minimum 2.1) in a relevant area, ideally economics or a subject with economics as a major component, or from other quantitative and/or health related disciplines (e.g. maths, statistics, operational research,).</td>
<td>Knowledge and understanding of health economics and/or healthcare modelling. Understanding of UK health policy-making environment.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Skills and Understanding</td>
<td>Knowledge and application of quantitative data analysis. Good statistical / quantitative skills.</td>
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<td>Prior Experience</td>
<td>Demonstrable awareness of quantitative techniques and presentation of results.</td>
<td>Experience of communicating and presenting results/ideas to different audiences.</td>
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<td>Behavioural Characteristics</td>
<td>Good written and verbal communication skills. Able to communicate complex and conceptual ideas to a range of groups. Ability to organise and prioritise own research work within the project framework. Ability to participate in and develop external networks. Ability to maintain accurate records. Computer literate.</td>
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<td>Circumstances</td>
<td>Willingness to travel to research sites/conferences/events.</td>
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**Terms & Conditions**

Our Terms and Conditions of Employment can be viewed [here](#).

**Further Information**

Please see our [website](#) for further information on working at the University of Exeter.