



THE POST

College:	College of Medicine and Health
Post:	Postdoctoral Research Fellows in the Economics of Public Health
Reference No:	P67523 & P67524
Grade:	F
Reporting To:	Professor Richard Smith
Responsible For:	N/A

These two new posts are available from 1st August 2019 on a 2 year fixed-term basis in the first instance, based within the Health Economics Group, Institute of Health Research, University of Exeter College of Medicine and Health.

Job Description

The University of Exeter

The Health Economics Group is one of 15 Groups working within the Institute of Health Research, University of Exeter College of Medicine and Health. The College is engaging in world leading research that has national and global impact. It is an exciting time for the College, 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 the University strategy.

Health Economics in Exeter is thriving, and has recently recruited two new Professors of Health Economics, Richard Smith and Claire Hulme, with further expansion of research capacity planned. It is a key discipline underpinning methodological and applied research in the Institute of Health Research, and more broadly across the University of Exeter and its internal and external partners.

Health Economics Group

The Health Economics Group conducts high quality policy-relevant research and provides high 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, and research focused on informing decisions around the delivery of health care and the design and evaluation of health interventions and systems, as well as research on the factors that determine our health and wellbeing.

Research themes in the Health Economics Group:

- Economics of public health (e.g. obesity, ageing, mental health, determinants of health, environment);
- 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;
- Equity in health and health care.

See <http://medicine.exeter.ac.uk/research/healthserv/healthconomics/> for a listing of projects and for further information.

Main purpose of the job:

These are part of several new posts created to further increase capacity in health economics. The post-holders will work alongside Professor Richard Smith in the development of research at Exeter on the economics of public health. The purpose of the posts is to contribute to publications and develop proposals for projects and Fellowships, including for the post-holders. Although applications will be considered that concern any area of public health economics, particular focus and interest lies in two broad areas: (i) nutrition, food and diet; and (ii) physical, social and economic environment. It is envisaged that either or both appointments may relate to one or both of these areas. It is intended that proposals will be collaborative with colleagues in the UK and overseas, and interest in this aspect would be desirable.

The successful applicant will work with Professor Smith to develop new research proposals, providing a unique opportunity to contribute to high-quality publications and the development of work in an area of the post-holders interest. With the intention to look for Fellowship funding as part of this, the post provides an ideal platform for the development of an independent research programme.

The successful applicant will be ambitious, motivated, and have experience of quantitative economic analyses including, for example, econometrics, experimental/behavioural economics or economic modelling.

For an informal conversation regarding this post please contact Professor Richard Smith, rich.smith@exeter.ac.uk.

Main duties and accountabilities:

1. To undertake high quality health economics research, the responsibilities may include all or some of the following:
 - Acting as principal and co-investigator on research projects/Fellowships;
 - Developing research objectives, projects and proposals;
 - Conducting individual and collaborative research projects;
 - Conducting critical review and synthesis of relevant literature;
 - Undertaking quantitative analyses and presentation of data;
 - Identifying sources of funding and contributing to the process of securing funds;
 - Extending, transforming and applying knowledge acquired from scholarship to research and appropriate external activities;
 - Writing and contributing to publications and the dissemination of research findings using various media;
 - Marking presentations at conferences or exhibiting work in other appropriate events, may be required;
 - Assessing, interpreting and evaluating outcomes of research;
 - Developing new concepts and ideas to extend intellectual understanding;
 - Resolving problems of meeting research objectives and deadlines, may be required;
 - Developing ideas for generating income and promoting research area, may be required;
 - Developing ideas for application of research outcomes, may be required;
 - Deciding on /following research programmes and methodologies, often in collaboration with colleagues and sometimes subject to the approval of the head of the research programme on fundamental issues.
2. To contribute to teaching and learning programmes in the School and to supervise postgraduate research students.
3. To work in collaboration with colleagues to support research activities and planning across the research group, including:
 - Mentoring colleagues with less experience and advising on their professional development;
 - Supporting colleagues in developing their research techniques;
 - Supervising the work of others, for example in research teams on projects, may be required;
 - Developing productive working relationships with other members of staff;
 - Co-ordinating the work of colleagues to ensure equitable access to resources and facilities, may be required;

- Dealing with standard problems and help colleagues to resolve their concerns about progress in research, may be required.
4. To routinely communicate complex and conceptual ideas to those with limited knowledge as well as to peers using high level skills and a range of media and to present the results of scientific research to sponsors and at conferences.
 5. As determined by the nature of the project and at the direction of the PI, to plan, co-ordinate and implement research programme activity including:
 - Managing the use of research resources and ensuring that effective use is made of them;
 - Monitoring and reporting on the use of research budgets;
 - Helping to plan and implement commercial and consultancy activities;
 - Where appropriate, to plan and manage own consultancy assignments.

This job description summarises the main duties and accountabilities of the posts and is not comprehensive: the post-holders may be required to undertake other duties of similar level and responsibility. Please visit the Human Resources website to view the Research Fellow role profiles.

Person Specification

Competency	Essential	Desirable
Attainments/Qualifications	PhD or equivalent qualification/research experience, in economics or related field of study. Undergraduate and/or postgraduate degree in economics or a related subject.	
Skills and Understanding	Excellent quantitative skills related to economics (eg econometrics, experimental/behavioural economics, economic modelling) Record of research output in recognised peer-reviewed journals, (incl. economics/health-related publications).	Knowledge of the processes of gaining ethics approval for research, and clear understanding of research governance. Presentation of papers at conferences and seminars. Experience of evidence synthesis/systematic review
Prior Experience	Experience in (an area of) public health economics .	Experience of teaching at undergraduate level. Experience of postgraduate teaching and supervision. Experience in development of research funding applications. Experience of managing research projects.
Behavioural Characteristics	Excellent written and verbal communication skills. Able to communicate complex and conceptual ideas to a range of groups. Ability to manage time/workload and prioritise with minimal supervision. Evidence of the ability to collaborate actively within the Institution and externally to complete research projects and advance thinking. Able to participate in and develop external networks.	Able to identify sources of funding, generate income, build relationships for future activities.

	Able to balance the pressures of research, administrative demands and competing deadlines.	
Circumstances	Willingness to travel to research sites/conferences/events in UK and overseas.	Experience working overseas Experience of intra- and inter-institution collaborations

Informal Enquiries

Before submitting an application you may wish to discuss the post further by contacting Richard Smith, Professor of Health Economics and Deputy Pro-Vice Chancellor, rich.smith@exeter.ac.uk.

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.