



## THE POST

<b>College:</b>	<b>College of Medicine and Health</b>
<b>Post:</b>	<b>Postdoctoral Research Associate</b>
<b>Reference No:</b>	<b>P68116</b>
<b>Grade:</b>	<b>E (sp26)</b>
<b>HERA:</b>	<b>ARF</b>
<b>Reporting To:</b>	<b>Iain Lang</b>

This post is available from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024 within the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Applied Research Collaboration South West Peninsula (PenARC) and based at the University of Exeter Medical School in the College of Medicine and Health. The post is available full-time but other working patterns will be considered.

### Job Description

#### Main purpose of the job:

The **College of Medicine and Health** wishes to appoint a Postdoctoral Research Associate to work on projects related to implementation science and knowledge mobilisation in health services research. This post will be funded from an NIHR award and the post-holder will be expected to provide support to research projects adopted by PenARC, to actively identify and develop research and implementation ideas relevant to PenARC's aims, and to contribute to the securing of external funding to support these. We wish to develop PenARC's capacity in implementation science and related fields (knowledge mobilisation, knowledge translation, quality improvement, etc.). Applicants with existing experience in and knowledge of these fields, whether from healthcare or other sectors, are particularly welcome to apply.

In our research and associated educational activity PenARC staff, researchers, and collaborators seek to develop existing partnerships between health researchers and NHS and other relevant organisations in the South West Peninsula in order to reach this objective. In particular, our close ongoing collaboration with the South West Academic Health Science Network (AHSN) enriches the opportunities for joint working on a range of potential projects.

#### PenARC

In 2018 The NIHR launched a new competition to designate and fund NIHR Applied Research Collaborations (NIHR ARCs), a new approach to the NIHR CLAHRCs of previous years. PenCLAHRC submitted their application to the NIHR to secure designation and funding for five years as an NIHR ARC in autumn 2018, and are now able to confirm the success of their application.

The new funding is part of a £135 million government investment in health research aimed at tackling the biggest challenges the health and care system faces over the next five years including dementia, obesity and mental health. A total of fifteen partnerships across England, made up of NHS organisations, social care services, leading academics, innovators, and local authorities, have been awarded funding through the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) for ground-breaking new projects that will address the increasing demands on the NHS and give patients greater independence and choice about how they manage their healthcare.

NIHR ARCs are successors to CLAHRCs NIHR Collaborations for Leadership in Applied Health Research and Care (CLAHRCs).

For more information about our work please visit our website: <http://clahrc-peninsula.nihr.ac.uk/>

**Main duties and accountabilities:**

1. To undertake research as appropriate to the field of study including:
  - Writing up research work for publication;
  - Developing research objectives and proposals for own or joint research;
  - Making presentations at national and international conferences and similar events;
  - Dealing with problems which may affect the achievement of research objectives and deadlines;
  - Analysing and interpreting the results of own research and generating original ideas based on outcomes;
  - Using new research techniques and methods;
  - Using initiative and creativity to identify areas for research, developing new research methods and extending the research portfolio;
  - Using creativity to analyse and interpret research data and draw conclusions on the outcomes.
2. To contribute to capacity building/training and teaching and to be involved in the assessment of student knowledge including assisting in the supervision of student projects and in the development of student research skills.
3. To work in collaboration with colleagues as appropriate to the field of study including:
  - Contributing to collaborative decision making within the research group;
  - Contributing to the production of collaborative research reports and publications.
  - Preparing papers and presenting information on research progress and outcomes to bodies supervising research, e.g. steering groups.
4. To communicate complex information, orally, in writing and electronically.
5. To prepare proposals and applications to external bodies, e.g. for funding and contractual purposes
6. To contribute to the planning of research projects.
7. To use research resources, laboratories and workshops as appropriate and to take responsibility for reducing hazards and for the health and safety of others. Where appropriate, will also be responsible for conducting risk assessments.
8. To monitor research budgets as appropriate.
9. To engage in continuous professional development and to be responsible for continually updating knowledge and understanding in field of study or specialism and for developing 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. Please visit the Human Resources website to view the Research Fellow role profiles.

**Person Specification**

<b>Competency</b>	<b>Essential</b>	<b>Desirable</b>
Attainments/Qualifications	PhD (or nearing completion) or equivalent qualification/experience in a related field of study.	PhD or equivalent professional experience relevant to implementation science (e.g. a related area of sociology, psychology, anthropology, or health sciences)
Skills and Understanding	Sufficient knowledge in the discipline and of research methods and techniques to work within established research	Evidence of research activity and published research.  Expertise in one or more of a

	<p>programmes.</p> <p>Understanding of the role in health services research of patient and public involvement and of co-producing research with knowledge users</p> <p>Knowledge of existing literature on implementation or improvement science</p>	<p>range of research skills related to implementation science methodologies and theories, such as health and social care services research and evaluation methods, realist methods, action research, and relevant quantitative methods</p> <p>Ability to navigate the complex inter-relationships in NHS or other health and social care organisations and evidence of successful working across the organisational interfaces (e.g. primary/ secondary care; public health/ clinical care/ social care; commissioners/ providers)</p>
Prior Experience	<p>Understanding of health and safety legislation</p> <p>Demonstrable experience of conducting research on health and social care services or related topics</p>	<p>Experience of undergraduate teaching</p> <p>Experience of working in or with the NHS or other health and social care organisations</p> <p>Experience of applying academic expertise or research evidence to help solve practical problems</p> <p>Experience of working both independently and collaboratively on research or implementation projects with proven success in working as part of a team developing ideas or methods with peers</p>
Behavioural Characteristics	<p>Excellent written and verbal communication skills.</p> <p>Able to communicate material of a specialist or highly technical nature.</p> <p>Able to manage research and administrative activities and to balance the competing pressures of research and administrative demands and deadlines.</p> <p>Able to liaise with colleagues and students.</p> <p>Able to build contacts and participate in internal and external networks for the exchange of information and collaboration.</p> <p>Able to identify potential sources of funding.</p> <p>Actively participate as a member of a research team.</p>	

	<p>Where appropriate to the role, willingness to undergo training in order to conduct risk assessments.</p> <p>Ability to communicate complex and conceptual ideas to a range of groups verbally, in writing, and using other media.</p> <p>Ability to build relationships and collaborate with others, both internally and externally.</p> <p>Commitment to engaging in continuous professional development.</p> <p>Understanding of equal opportunities issues as they may impact on health and social care services research.</p>	
Circumstances	<p>Willing to work flexibly to achieve project demands.</p> <p>The post may involve some travel to sites across Devon, Cornwall, and Somerset.</p>	

**Informal Enquiries**

Before submitting an application you may wish to discuss the post further by contacting Dr Iain Lang [I.Lang@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:I.Lang@exeter.ac.uk) 01392 726087 or 07500 786180, or Dr Jo Day [J.K.Day@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:J.K.Day@exeter.ac.uk) 01392 726089

**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.