



THE POST

College:	College of Medicine and Health
Post:	Postdoctoral Research Associate in Health Technology Assessment
Reference No:	R72721
Grade:	E (sp26)
HERA:	ARF
Reporting To:	Prof G.J. Melendez-Torres
Responsible For:	Contributing to health technology assessments

The above post is available up to full-time from August 2020 until March 2022, with extension conditional on continued funding.

Job Description

Main purpose of the job:

The Peninsula Technology Assessment Group (PenTAG) is one of the most highly respected and well-established health technology assessment (HTA) groups in the United Kingdom. Located at the University of Exeter, a leading Russell Group university, PenTAG provides expert advice to the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) and other stakeholders about the clinical and cost effectiveness of pharmaceuticals, diagnostic tests and medical devices.

You will be an expert in at least one field related to HTA, including clinical epidemiology, systematic reviewing and health economics. Working within PenTAG, you will support HTA projects for NICE. This will include working with multidisciplinary teams of systematic reviewers, epidemiologists, statisticians, health economists, information specialists and clinical experts in producing responsive, high-quality outputs under strict deadlines. Good knowledge of all key steps of systematic reviewing and related health statistics, and of quantitative methods for HTA including health economic evaluation and modelling is essential. Key tasks associated with this role include appraisal and manipulation of clinical trial evidence, meta-analyses and providing clinical inputs from evidence synthesis for economic models. As part of this post, you will have an important role in seeing the 'big picture' to identify and communicate key issues in HTA that are likely to be of consequence to stakeholders and policymakers. In due course, you will be supported to undertake project management of HTAs alongside senior postholders in PenTAG.

Critically, and as part of the evolution of PenTAG's scientific direction, you will have a role to play in joining and developing grants and publications relating to HTA across a range of topics. Supported by senior postholders in PenTAG, you will develop an independent profile of publications in HTA. If you do not have a PhD, these publications will potentially form the basis of a PhD by publication. You should have a developing profile in health technology assessment, as evidenced by publications and demonstrated career interests.

As part of the general expectations of this post, you will publish in high quality international journals, support grant capture, present at conferences and occasionally defend our work at NICE Appraisal Committee meetings.

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 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

Competency	Essential	Desirable
Attainments/Qualifications	PhD (or nearing completion) or equivalent qualification/experience in a related field of study. Developing record of publications relevant to health technology assessment.	Masters' level award in relevant discipline or equivalent research experience
Skills and Understanding	Sufficient knowledge in the discipline and of research methods and techniques to work within established research programmes. Good knowledge of all key steps of systematic reviewing and related health statistics, including critical appraisal of trial evidence. Good knowledge of quantitative	Advanced knowledge of health economics and economic modelling. Understanding of the role of NICE and the purpose of health technology assessment. Advanced knowledge of health statistics, including network meta-analysis.

	<p>methods for HTA, e.g. health economics or health economic modelling.</p> <p>Good skills in word processing (Microsoft Word), Microsoft Powerpoint, and spreadsheets (Microsoft Excel)</p>	<p>Knowledge of R, Stata, Simul8 and/or WinBUGS.</p> <p>Knowledge of reference management software (e.g. Endnote, Reference Manager, Zotero)</p>
Prior Experience	<p>Understanding of health policy and policy-making processes</p> <p>Experience of working in a multidisciplinary team</p>	<p>Experience of carrying out systematic reviews.</p> <p>Experience of developing research proposals.</p> <p>Ability to identify potential sources of funding</p> <p>Experience of presenting research findings.</p> <p>Experience of working with healthcare professionals.</p> <p>Experience of undergraduate teaching.</p> <p>Experience of supervising / line managing staff</p>
Behavioural Characteristics	<p>Excellent written and verbal communication skills.</p> <p>Ability to write concisely and clearly on technical subjects and to prepare reports quickly</p> <p>Ability to communicate material of a specialist or highly technical nature to a mixed or non-specialist audience.</p> <p>Able to manage research and administrative activities and to balance the competing pressures of research and administrative demands and deadlines.</p> <p>Excellent project management skills.</p> <p>Excellent time management skills.</p> <p>Self-motivated with drive and energy</p> <p>Ability 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</p>	<p>Ability to work with minimal supervision and to seek help when required.</p>

	<p>of a research team</p> <p>Engage in continuous professional development.</p> <p>Ability and willingness to learn new skills</p> <p>Understand equal opportunity issues as they may impact on areas of research content</p> <p>Where appropriate to the role, willingness to undergo training in order to conduct risk assessments</p> <p>An understanding of the importance of equality and diversity within an organisation and a commitment to helping create an inclusive culture.</p>	
Circumstances	Willing to work flexibly to achieve project demands	

Informal Enquiries

Before submitting an application you may wish to discuss the post further by contacting Prof G.J. Melendez-Torres, Professor of Clinical and Social Epidemiology and director of PenTAG, email g.j.melendez-torres@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.