

Job Description

Research Fellow (Mental Health)

Salary:	Grade 8
Contract:	Full time fixed term until 30/6/2027 From 01/07/2027 Part time fixed term 17.5 hours until 28/02/2030
School/Department:	Kent and Medway Medical School
Location:	Canterbury Campus
Responsible:	Director of Research

Kent and Medway Medical School

KMMS welcomed its first students in 2020 and achieved full GMC accreditation in 2025. Our mission is to widen participation, train excellent doctors, and improve health in Kent and Medway. We deliver a five-year undergraduate programme and a growing portfolio of postgraduate study, including the MSc in Clinical Education and Physician Associate Studies.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

KMMS is proud to have a diverse and inclusive community of students and staff. We welcome applications from members of all the non-majority parts of our community and KMMS is committed to fair treatment and to ensuring that the learning and working environment is supportive and inclusive to all. Duties in the delivery of learning, teaching and supporting students and staff should be performed in a manner in keeping with the School's core values.

Job purpose

KMMS wishes to recruit a Research Fellow who will contribute to building a research profile for KMMS and the collaborating universities. This role will be responsible for supporting the delivery of clinical research across a range of studies in mental illness and dementia; including the testing and delivery of a new support system for people living with dementia and their family carers in areas of high health inequalities and with under-served groups. The post holder will also contribute to the development of new research projects, support ethics applications, and provide mentorship and guidance to research staff and assist with training activities to build research capacity within the School.

The role will be split between two projects until 30/06/2027: **Kent And Medway Brain Health Clinic: A Pilot Study Of Streamlined Dementia Assessment Using Blood Biomarkers, Low-field MRI And Electronic Cognitive Testing and Implementing GRACE: Goal-directed Accessible, Equitable, Evidence-based Post-diagnostic Care.** Then from 01/07/2027 you will be working 17.5 hours continuing working on **Implementing GRACE** until 28/02/2030.

The role is open to suitably qualified individuals who have a record of research publications in a relevant field of research and scholarship. You will need to demonstrate that you will contribute to the Medical School in an important way, for example significant leadership in encouraging research and/or the promotion of innovation and enterprise activity. You will need to demonstrate sustained contributions to the advancement of your subject through funded research activity which will bring distinction to yourself and the University.

This role will involve working on both the University of Kent and the Canterbury Christ Church University campuses in Canterbury and Medway as well as working virtually and at other sites across Kent and Medway.

Key accountabilities

- Engage in individual and collaborative research and scholarship leading to high- quality publications at acceptable levels of volume and academic excellence, and develop income from research, enterprise, or corporate engagement individually or in collaboration with others.
- Contribute to building a research culture in KMMS which appropriately reflects existing research priorities and strategies.
- Deliver and contribute to the design of high-quality, demand-driven, and student-centred taught programmes.

Key duties

The following are the main duties for the job. Other duties, commensurate with the grading of the job, may also be assigned from time to time.

- Assess eligibility, obtain informed consent, and monitor study participants, documenting and reporting on results in line with national and university data protection and privacy protocols.
- Support grant funding and ethics applications
- Extend, transform and apply knowledge acquired from scholarship to research and appropriate external activities.
- Write or contribute to publications or disseminate research findings using other appropriate media.
- Make presentations at conferences or exhibit work in other appropriate events.
- Develop and deliver agreed curriculum content for the BM BS programme, such as innovative and creative Student Selected Components (SSCs) and Individual Research Projects for BM BS students.
- Deliver high-quality teaching and student supervision to undergraduate BM BS students in KMMS, such as acting as Personal Academic Tutor to students, participating in MMIs and OSCEs as an examiner, and supervising students undertaking Student Selected Components (SSCs) and Individual Research Projects.
- Routinely communicate complex and conceptual ideas to those with limited knowledge and understanding as well as to peers using high level skills and a range of media.
- Collaborate actively within and out with the Institution to complete research projects and advance thinking.
- Participate in and develop external networks, for example to identify sources of funding, generate income, obtain consultancy projects, or build relationships for future activities.
- Mentor colleagues with less experience and advise on personal development.
- Supervise the work of others, for example in research teams or projects, and coach and support colleagues in developing their research aspirations.
- Take lead responsibility for a small research project or identified parts of a large project.
- Develop productive working relationships with other members of staff.

Internal & external relationships

Internal: This post requires close working relationships with the NHS partners, researchers at the partner universities, KMMS staff, Quality and Governance teams and administrative staff. Awareness of the impact of the medical school within the two partner universities is necessary and therefore this post requires good working relationships with staff and colleagues across both partner universities.

External: Leads for research across the partner universities and the NHS Research and development, General Practice and Community Medical Education (or their equivalents) at regional centres, Trusts, LEPs and placement providers. External bodies such as research funders, Office for Students, Medical Schools Council, GMC, Academy of Medical Educators, Higher Education Academy, Health Education England, UK Foundation Programme Office.

Health, safety & wellbeing considerations

This job involves undertaking duties which include the following health, safety and wellbeing considerations:

- Regular use of Screen Display Equipment
- Conflict resolution
- Pressure to meet important deadlines such as might be inherent in high profile projects
- There may be a requirement to work evenings and weekends
- Ability to occasionally travel in a timely and efficient manner between campuses

Person specification

The person specification details the necessary skills, qualifications, experience or other attributes needed to carry out the job. Applications will be measured against the criteria published below.

Selection panels will be looking for clear evidence and examples in an application, or cover letter (where applicable), which back-up any assertions made in relation to each criterion.

Essential Criteria:

- A research or professional doctoral degree, or near to completion of a research or professional doctoral degree, (PhD or MD) in a relevant discipline or equivalent experience (A)
- Knowledge of quantitative and qualitative research methods and their application (A, I)
- Experience in health research related to mental health or dementia as a postdoctoral researcher or equivalent (A, I)
- Experience of day-to-day running and management of clinical research projects (A, I)
- Knowledge of the workings and operation of the health systems (A, I)
- Experience of undertaking high-quality research in this or a related field (A, I)
- Experience of involvement and engagement of public/ patients in research (A, I)
- Experience of teaching at a postgraduate level (A, I, P)
- Excellent interpersonal, presentation and communication skills (I, P)
- Statistic and data analysis skills (I, P)
- Evidence of ability to write research reports, journal articles and other written outputs (e.g. blogs) (A, I)
- Willingness to contributing fully and flexibly as part of the research programme (I)
- Willingness to learn new research methods and skills with support and training (I)
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team (I)
- A firm commitment to fostering a working and learning environment that is respectful, inclusive and values diversity, including diversity of thought, and which enables staff and students from a wide range of backgrounds to thrive (I)

Desirable Criteria:

- Experience in conducting evaluations and analysis of health interventions (A, I)
- Knowledge of implementation methods and their application, including roll-out and scaling-up of trial/pilot interventions (A, I)

Assessment stage: A - Application; I - Interview; T - Test/presentation at interview stage