

Job Description

Research Associate

Salary:	Grade 7
Contract:	Full time, fixed term
School/Department:	Kent and Medway Medical School
Location:	Canterbury Campus
Responsible to:	Professor Sukhwinder Shergill

Job purpose

The Research Associate will join the Kent and Medway Medical School research group, contributing to a new programme grant funded by the Wellcome Trust, 'Sleep and circadian health disturbances in psychosis and depression: the cascading impacts of impairments in cognitive control.'

Working under the supervision of Professor Shergill, the Research Associate will support this project by undertaking research, coordinating ethics processes, analysing and disseminating information.

The award of a PhD in Neuroscience, Psychology or a related subject is required before taking up this position. Candidates in the final stages of completing their degree are encouraged to apply provided they can provide a reference attesting that their PhD viva will be held by the start date of this role

Key accountabilities

- Undertake research at an internationally competitive level.
- Contribute to the development of the research project, specifically to the project Sleep and Circadian Health Disturbances in Psychosis and Depression: The cascading impacts of impairments in cognitive Control
- Coordinate the ethical approval and piloting before the recruitment and follow-up phase.
- Support recruitment and longitudinal follow-up of the healthy and clinical samples
- Analyse wearables data and modelling the integration of wearables and biomarkers data with clinical data.
- Disseminate research results through peer-reviewed publications and conference presentations.

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.

- Prepare the ethics application, clinical assessments and initiate contacts with clinical teams.

- Organise the study materials and piloting before the main work of supporting recruitment and longitudinal follow-up of the healthy and clinical sample, analysis of wearables data clinical data and biomarker data
- Monitor and study literature related to the project
- Work closely with the supervisors, and, as necessary, with collaborative partners
- Design and execute the necessary experiments maintaining an up-to-date log of the research activity undertaken and of the obtained results
- Carefully plan the research activity making sure the milestones of the project are achieved within the expected timeframe
- Regularly update the supervisors on the progress of the research
- Write up the research outcomes for publication in high quality peer reviewed journals
- Attend and present research findings at relevant national and international conferences
- Disseminate findings to a wider audience including non-scientists
- Contribute to further applications for funding an extension of this project or related work
- Assist in the supervision of undergraduates and postgraduate student research projects
- Be committed to your own personal career development, including continually updating knowledge and understanding in fields related to this research project.

Internal & external relationships

Internal: This post is situated within the KMMS research group which encourages interactions in a dynamic interdisciplinary research environment. Academic and professional services staff within the Medical School, Division of Natural Sciences and wider University.

External: Other partners in the project from Canterbury Christ Church University, King's College London, the University of Liverpool, collaborative partners within the KMMS research group, and a wide range of health and social care partners in the Kent and Medway area.

Health, safety & wellbeing considerations

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

- Regular use of Screen Display Equipment
- Pressure to meet important deadlines such as might be inherent in high profile projects

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 PhD or equivalent degree in social or behavioural sciences or a closely related discipline or equivalent (or to be in the final stages of obtaining such a qualification and able to evidence that the PhD viva will be held by the start date of this role) (A,I)
- A record of publications as the first or corresponding author in high-quality peer-reviewed

journals (A)

- A record of presentations at national and international conferences (A,I)
- Ability to conduct research independently (I)
- Good written and oral communication skills (I)
- Good team working skills (I)
- Ability to meet deadlines (I)
- Enthusiasm and motivation for research (I)
- Firm commitment to achieving the University's vision and values, with a passion for a transformative student experience and multidisciplinary, impactful research (I)
- Commitment to deliver and promote equality, diversity and inclusivity in the day to day work of the role (I)

Desirable Criteria:

- Experience in analysing wearables data and modelling the integration of wearables and biomarkers data with clinical data. (A,I)
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- Experience in modelling the integration of wearables and biomarkers data (A,I)
- Experience in modelling clinical data (A,I)
- Experience in obtaining and supporting regulatory ethical approvals. (A,I)
- Experience in setting up studies using digital tools to monitor sleep and affective experiences (e.g., using actigraphy, and experience sampling) (A,I)
- Experience in working with participants requiring adjustments to data collection (e.g., shift workers, clinical samples) (A,I)
- Experience in supervision or management of research projects (A,I)
- Experience in writing research proposals (A,I)
- Proven research skills in data modelling (A,I)
- Proven research skills in remote data collection (A,I)
- Good skills with computers for instrument control and data analysis (I)
- Ability to generate new research ideas (I)
- A commitment to own continuous professional development (I)

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