

Job Description

Research Assistant

Salary:	Grade 6
Contract:	Part time, fixed term
Location:	Canterbury Campus
Responsible to:	Director of Research
Job family:	Administrative



Kent and Medway Medical School

Kent and Medway Medical School (KMMS) opened to our first cohort of students in September 2020 and achieved full GMC accreditation in 2025. Our vision is to become a beacon for first-class medical education and research and to attract the most talented aspiring doctors from within the local community and beyond, offering training and development opportunities that will help keep this talent in Kent and Medway. The five-year undergraduate programme is taught at the Canterbury campuses of both university partners with medical placements within Primary, Community and Secondary Care across Kent and Medway. KMMS brings together the existing centres of excellence in health and medical education provided by the University of Kent and Canterbury Christ Church University and local healthcare organisations, to offer a new model of person-centred medical education.

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 commitment to equality and diversity.

Job purpose

An enthusiastic and ambitious researcher will join the Kent and Medway Medical School research group, working under the supervision of Professor Shergill. The Research Assistant will contribute to the development of AI for Health-related projects and grants and support the development of the research network and research culture in KMMS.

Key accountabilities

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.

- Contribute to the development of mental health research projects and grant applications, network development and student research support
- Liaise with KMMS collaborators within Kent and Christ Church, KMPT and KCL, and to identify academic partners and researchers working on AI for Health to support the growth of the research network and research culture in KMMS

Key duties

The following provide an overview of the most challenging or complex parts of the role and the degree of autonomy that exists.

- Undertake administrative tasks associated with the research project, including scoping literature reviews (collecting relevant articles per topic and summarising key points in topic-focused presentations)
- Coordinate and record data (numerical, imaging, visual, textual and audio data)
- Investigate and experiment with cutting-edge AI tools to assess their potential applications and impact in healthcare settings
- Undertake and publish systematic literature reviews
- Support and prepare research ethics and research governance applications as appropriate
- Identify academic partners and individual researchers working on AI for Health in Kent
- Organise research workshop/symposium and promotion material at KMMS, bringing together mental health experts and interested collaborators
- Organise research meetings, visits and collate meeting records
- Travel and collaborative activity with KMPT, KCL, CCCU and UoK

Other duties, commensurate with the grading of the post that may be assigned by the Head of Department or their nominee.

Facts & figures

This role is part of an EPSRC-funded project (approx. £500k) that explores how AI and virtual human technologies can support the NHS. The postholder will join a multidisciplinary team that includes five colleagues from KMMS, Computing, and Engineering, as well as two collaborators from the NHS. The position does not include line management responsibilities

Internal & external relationships

Internal: Prof Jim Ang. 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: Collaborative partners within the KMMS research group, CSI Lab, international partners in global health research, a wide range of health and social care partners in the Kent and Medway area and Canterbury Christ Church University.

Health, safety & wellbeing considerations

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

- Regular use of Screen Display Equipment
- Repetitive limb movements
- Pressure to meet important deadlines such as might be inherent in high profile projects
- 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 Masters or equivalent degree in psychology, computing or a closely related discipline or equivalent (A,I)
- Good knowledge of the latest AI developments (A,I)
- Familiarity with quantitative and qualitative research (A,I)

- Ability to carry out research independently (A,I)
- Excellent research skills in AI for Health research (A,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:

- Ability to write scientific articles (I)
- Ability to generate new research ideas (I)
- A commitment to your own continuous professional development (I)

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