

## Job Description

Post Title and Post Number	Research Associate – 47652
Organisation Advertising Description	School of Psychology
Post Number	47652
Full Time/Part Time	Full Time
Number of hours / weeks to be worked	100%
Duration of post	3 months
Post is open to:	<b>Internal and External Candidates</b>
Grade	6
Salary	Starting salary is normally in the range £24,766 to £27,047. With potential progression once in post to £30,424 a year.
Additional Information	For an informal discussion contact Catherine Hamilton-Giachritsis; c.hamilton1@bham.ac.uk
Terms and Conditions	<a href="#">Research and Analogous Staff (non-clinical)</a>
Closing Date	24 July 2013

## Job Summary

A Research Assistant is required for a study on the inter-rater reliability of a new system for maternity triage, as part of Theme 5 (Maternity) of the Collaborations for Leadership in Applied Health Research and Care (CLAHRC) for Birmingham and Black Country programme, which is funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR). The post will commence on 1 August 2013 and will last up to five months.

The overarching aim of the CLAHRC programme is to undertake high-quality applied health research focused on the local needs of patients and to support the translation of research evidence into practice in our local NHS. Our collaboration involves the University of Birmingham and eleven NHS organisations across our region and comprises a programme of nine research or implementation themes and cross-cutting research activities.

The post holder will work with Dr Catherine Hamilton-Giachritsis, Forensic Psychologist & Clinical Psychologist, and Dr Sara Kenyon, Senior Lecturer in Public Health, as well as other members of the CLAHRC Theme 5 (Maternity) team.

The post holder will contribute to a project on inter-rater reliability of a new system for maternity triage. Dr Sara Kenyon and Dr Nina Johns (lead obstetrician for Delivery Suite at Birmingham Women's Hospital) have developed a triage system for maternity: Birmingham Symptom Specific Obstetric Triage System (BSOTS). BSOTS includes a standardised assessment to ensure timely care based on clinical need, together with symptom specific algorithms and standardised immediate care and observations. Following an intensive period of training clinical staff the system was introduced into Triage in April 2013 and this study will evaluate inter-rater reliability, i.e., do different midwives prioritise patients in the same way using BSOTS.

Specifically, the post-holder will contribute to the development of a series of vignettes to test inter-rater reliability, plus undertake collection of data in maternity units with up to 80 midwives. Supervised by Catherine Hamilton-Giachritsis and Sara Kenyon, the post holder will input and analyse the data. This evaluation study will have important implications for forward in the use of BSOTS and the ability to roll it out to other hospitals.

### **Main Duties**

- To undertake research tasks in accordance with a specific research project (Inter-rater reliability of a new system for maternity triage) as part of Theme 5 (Maternity) of the CLAHRC-BBC, under supervision from Sara Kenyon and Catherine Hamilton-Giachritsis.
- To prioritise tasks within an agreed work schedule to ensure the project is delivered in a timely fashion.
- To determine, develop and maintain the administrative systems associated with the research project: for example, arranging visits, review of relevant literature, and preparation of reports and manuscripts for publication.
- To contribute to the development of vignettes necessary for data collection.
- To collect the research data and contribute to analysis under the supervision of Catherine Hamilton-Giachritsis and Sara Kenyon. This will include attending maternity units, engaging staff in the project, inputting data, analysis, and drafting findings/conclusions.
- To use a variety of IT packages, to assist in the preparation of research grant applications and papers including Word and SPSS.

### **Scope of the Role**

- Work within specified research grants and/or projects
- Operate within area of specialism
- Contribute to publications

### **Knowledge, Skills and Experience**

- First degree in relevant subject area, for example Medical Sciences, Psychology and other health related degrees
- Experience of undertaking quantitative research
- Experience of research or service development activities, involving the collection and analysis of data and reporting of findings
- Experience of working in an applied setting (e.g., NHS, private health care organisations) and with staff from a variety of professions (e.g., nursing, psychology, psychiatry)
- Experience of engaging individuals in research
- Building and maintaining positive working relationships with people across different settings
- Ability to prioritise and organise workload
- Ability to write and present reports or findings at various levels
- Ability to undertake inter-rater reliability analysis (eg. Cohen's Kappa, ICC)
- Ability to accurately interpret statistical outputs
- Excellent communication (written and verbal) and organisational skills

- Proficient in the use of generic IT packages, for example Outlook and Excel, and academic software packages such as Reference Manager and SPSS
- Knowledge of research design techniques
- Understanding of the NHS landscape and Academic environment
- Familiarity with the CLAHRC-BBC
- Previous experience / knowledge of health services research

### **Planning and Organising**

- Plan and organise own workload
- Contribute to the planning and facilitating of research activities of this study for Theme 5 (Maternity) of CLAHRC-BBC

### **Decision Making**

- Use resources and facilities as appropriate
- Ability to work independently using own initiative on day-to-day basis and escalate issues where appropriate

### **Internal/External Relationships**

- Liaise with CLARHC-BBC colleagues, research staff and support staff on research and routine matters
- Liaise with external collaborators on the research, where appropriate
- Participate in internal networks for the exchange of information