



Research Trainee

Department: Social Policy and Social Work

Hours of work: 11.1 hours per week, 0.3 fte (two posts - one for 3 months; one for 7 months)

Contract type: Fixed term

Salary: £26,341-£32,344

Introduction

We are inviting applications to join our team working on an ongoing project exploring how asset-based approaches can be used to support parents with learning disabilities. Our team from the Department of Social Policy and Social Work is conducting interviews and focus groups with parents with learning disabilities and the professionals who work with them across the UK. By the end of the project, we will have identified how we can best use community strengths and resources to support people with learning disabilities in their parenting. We will use a variety of workshops and good practice guides to share what we have learned with the learning disability community, with other researchers, and with health and social care professionals. The project is being run in collaboration with York People First, a self-advocacy group for people with learning disabilities.

We are looking to appoint two people with an advanced knowledge of qualitative research methods and strong organisational skills. Your main role will be to contribute to the ongoing qualitative data analysis. You will also assume key responsibilities for the ongoing administration of the project. The two posts will start on 1 April 2022 or as soon as possible thereafter. You will be supervised by Dr Jenny Threlfall, the Principal Investigator for the study.

Main purpose of the role

- To provide support to research project/s, undertaking research work within the overall programme and assisting with the day to day operation of the project.

Key responsibilities

(Role holders will be required to undertake some or all of the duties below)

- To undertake work, which may be as part of a research team, investigating a designated area of subject knowledge to promote further understanding
- To contribute to the intellectual development of the project and plan own activities within the overall research effort
- With the guidance of the project supervisor, to undertake a combination of literature searches/scholarly reading, subject interviews, questionnaires or other research activity. Using specialist knowledge, techniques and/or instrumentation as required.
- To document work appropriately and in accordance with research best practice.
- To work closely with the project supervisor to prepare work for dissemination, presenting preliminary findings at meetings within the research group as appropriate.
- Under the guidance of the project supervisor, to assist in writing articles, papers, reports or books as appropriate.
- To liaise and collaborate with students and researchers and relevant external contacts and organisations.
- To participate in the dissemination of research findings internally and externally at seminars, workshops and conferences.
- To consider the public engagement and impact of the project and take appropriate steps to maximise these with the support of the research leader

- To undertake appropriate organisational and administrative activities as delegated by the Research Supervisor. Examples may include: organising meetings, conferences and workshops; monitoring budgets; developing promotional or educational material, including website maintenance and development.
- To prioritise tasks within an agreed work schedule to ensure that the project(s) are delivered on time.

Person specification

	Essential / Desirable
Qualifications	
Undergraduate degree or equivalent experience	Essential
Knowledge	
Knowledge of a range of qualitative research techniques and methodologies	Essential
Understanding of relevant health & safety practices	Essential
Has research expertise in an area that will complement and enhance the department's research strategy and goals	Essential
Skills, abilities and competencies	
Ability to undertake academic research, including managing and analysing qualitative data	Essential
Ability to organise own research activities to agreed deadlines and quality standards	Essential
Excellent IT skills, including familiarity with qualitative analysis software (NVivo)	Essential
Excellent written communication in order to contribute effectively to the production of project materials	Essential
High level oral communication skills to enable the effective presentation of research progress and outcomes to key stakeholders	Essential
Ability to communicate new and complex information effectively to a range of audiences	Essential
Ability to develop internal and external contacts in order to enhance knowledge and understanding and form relationships for future collaboration	Essential
Ability to work as part of a team and also to work independently using own initiative	Essential
Experience	
Experience of qualitative data analysis	Essential

Personal attributes	
Interest in and enthusiasm for the inclusion of people with learning disabilities	Essential
Positive attitude to colleagues and students	Essential
A passion for conducting high quality research with impact	Essential
Willingness to work proactively with colleagues in other work areas/institutions	Essential
Ability to plan and prioritise own work in order to meet deadlines	Essential
Commitment to personal development and updating of knowledge and skills	Essential