

SECONDMENT OPPORTUNITY - ROLE DESCRIPTION

Job Title:	ARC Practitioner Research Fellow
Band:	Secondment– ARC will pay 0.2-0.5 WTE of current salary
Department:	NIHR ARC NENC
Location:	To be arranged dependent on role
Responsible to:	ARC Operations Manager

Role Summary

We are looking to appoint a number of Practitioner Research Fellows to work across the NIHR Applied Research Collaboration (ARC) North East and North Cumbria (NENC) and regional health and care providers, who will assist in co-production of original research projects and priority evaluations. Fellows will provide a crucial link between a broad range of practitioners, services, university researchers and ARC Themes. These secondments will provide an opportunity for motivated individuals already working within healthcare, social care and relevant third sector organizations to gain formal experience in applied research and develop new skills in evaluation and project management.

Applicants should be employed within health or social care including the third sector, and already have demonstrable experience in audit, evaluation/improvement and/or applied research. This includes doctors, dentists, allied health professionals, social workers and other practitioners working for health and care providers or relevant support organisations. A Masters level qualification or equivalent is desirable but not essential. Additional training will be available according to individual backgrounds and planned projects.

The posts will be part-time secondments (0.2 – 0.5 wte) within the individual's existing employing organization for a minimum of 12 months, and a maximum of 36 months. All secondments will be renewed on an annual basis subject to satisfactory performance.

Before applying, individuals must:

- discuss the opportunity within their employing organization to determine what time contribution and duration of secondment is possible.
- agree an evaluation topic of interest and experience / skills development plan with researchers who are linked to an ARC theme. The award process will require a joint presentation by shortlisted candidates and a relevant academic partner to describe plans for an applied health research project and Fellowship training.

More information about the NIHR ARC North East North Cumbria and our Themes is available on our website <https://arc-nenc.nihr.ac.uk/>

Key duties and Responsibilities

- To work within and between non-university ARC partners including health, care and third sector organisations to facilitate and undertake original applied health research projects.
- To provide a crucial link between practitioners, services and university researchers to prioritise questions and assist with appropriate evaluation process.
- To undertake at least one original applied evaluation project supported by researchers linked to the ARC.
- With support develop at least one publication for submission to a peer reviewed journal and/or a small grant application or personal award from an external funder.
- To represent the ARC within partner organisations and assist in the development of an evaluation culture including sharing of ARC outputs and development of local training opportunities.
- To facilitate implementation of ARC research outputs by working with the ARC Implementation Advisory Group.
- To contribute towards ARC Public Involvement and Community Engagement activities, including dissemination of outputs in appropriate formats.

Training

- Practitioners currently working in health or social care roles within the North East and North Cumbria region.
- Local experience in audit, evaluation/improvement and/or applied research.
- A Masters level qualification or equivalent is desirable but not essential if there is sufficient evidence of experience and skills.

Knowledge

- Knowledge of NHS, Public Health, social care and/or local authority structures and purposes relevant to the current practice setting of the postholder.
- Awareness of routine health and care information sources that could assist evaluations.
- Awareness of data protection and/or research governance regulations.
- Knowledge of basic data reporting approaches is helpful.
- Awareness of approaches for effective organisational audit.
- Awareness of the importance of public and patient involvement in project planning.
- Awareness of NIHR ARC objectives, priorities and research themes.

Skills

- Well-developed organisational skills, including project planning and preparing reports.
- Well-developed interpersonal skills including effective teamwork and communication.
- Ability to use common software packages including spreadsheets.
- Ability to interpret relevant health and social care data in their local context.

Relevant experience

A wide range of experience is applicable including (but not exclusively):

- Audit and/or research data collection and reporting to evaluate or monitor specific aspects of health or social care services.
- Data-informed management or improvement of health or social care.
- Defined project management and completion of organisational change cycles.
- Liaising with practice, management and/or research staff to complete a defined project for service or health improvement.
- Working within a wider network including the public, patients and/or multidisciplinary teams.

Application is by submission of CV to arcnenc@cntw.nhs.uk and applicants should briefly describe:

- The applicant's motivation for undertaking a Fellow secondment.
- The area of health and care providing a focus for their project proposal.
- The research team supporting the proposed secondment including a named academic mentor.
- The time commitment and timeline for starting and completing a secondment.

This role description is not intended to be an exhaustive list of the duties and responsibilities of the post and the post holder may be requested to carry out any other duties appropriate to the grade or post.

The post may change over time to meet organisational requirements and the job description may be changed after consultation with the post holder at any time.