



Research Assistant



ROLE DESCRIPTION

GRADE

Grade 4

LOCATION

Sighthill, Edinburgh

LINE MANAGER

Prof. Thanos Karatzias

ROLE SUMMARY

The post-holder will join the PICASSO (Psychological Interventions for Complex PTSD And Schizophrenia-Spectrum disorder) trial. PICASSO is funded by the Chief Scientist Office and aims to assess the feasibility of conducting an 'Umbrella' trial (i.e., multiple concurrent randomised controlled trials) of psychological interventions to improve traumatic stress symptoms in people with psychosis. PICASSO is running in two Scottish sites; Edinburgh and Glasgow.

The post-holder will work with the Chief Investigator (Prof. Thanos Karatzias), the NHS Lothian Principal Investigator (Dr Sean Harper), the Greater Glasgow and Clyde Principle Investigator (Prof. Hamish Mcleod) and the Trial Manager to raise awareness of the trial in Scotland, liaise with referrers, acquire consent from participants, conduct research assessments, and contribute to the general running of PICASSO.

The post will offer experience of engaging individuals with psychosis, clinical research assessment, NHS services and working as part of a clinical trial. It would be particularly suited to individuals interested in pursuing a career in clinical psychology or clinical research.

**LINE MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITY FOR:**

This role does not have any line management responsibilities currently.

MAIN DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Raise awareness of the PICASSO trial with potential referrers, and invite people with psychosis to participate. This will involve regular liaison with potential referrers, attending clinical team meetings and visiting community mental health teams and hospital wards.
- Visit participants in clinic settings or at home to seek consent and complete research assessments. This will require strong interpersonal skills, understanding of ethical issues relating to consent, a valid driving licence, and access to independent means of transport.
- Enter data onto study databases, produce regular reports on recruitment progress, and conduct descriptive analysis of quantitative data using statistical software.
- Carry out and analyse qualitative interviews with people with psychosis and their clinicians to find out their experience of participating in PICASSO.
- Attend and contribute to training, supervision and relevant research meetings. Actively participate as a member of the research team.
- Collaborate with clinicians and researchers inside and out with the University.
- Be responsible for ensuring that the information and records processed (received, created, used, stored, destroyed) on behalf of the University are managed in compliance with ALL applicable legislation, codes and policies e.g. [Data Protection](#), [Information Security](#) and [Records Management](#).

PERSON SPECIFICATION

ESSENTIAL

DESIRABLE

EDUCATION / QUALIFICATIONS

- | | ESSENTIAL | DESIRABLE |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| • Good (2.1 or 1 st class) undergraduate (UG) degree in a relevant academic or clinical discipline (e.g., psychology, nursing). | ✓ | |
| • Knowledge of issues surrounding the care of people with psychosis | | ✓ |
| • Knowledge of psychological interventions for psychosis. | | ✓ |
| • Completion of Good Clinical Practice (GCP) training. | | ✓ |

SKILLS / EXPERIENCE

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|--|---|--|
| • Experience of working with people with mental health difficulties, in either a voluntary, clinical or research capacity. | ✓ | |
| • Experience in conducting quantitative data analysis. | ✓ | |
| • Experience of using SPSS or other statistical software packages. | ✓ | |
| • Ability to engage patients with complex and/or severe mental health problems. | ✓ | |
| • An interest in psychological approaches to understanding and treating psychosis. | ✓ | |
| • Excellent IT skills and experience of data entry, data cleaning and organisation of files. | ✓ | |
| • Excellent written and verbal communication skills, including presentation and report writing skills. | ✓ | |
| • Excellent organisation, prioritisation and time management skills, with a flexible approach to working. | ✓ | |
| • Strong attention to detail. | ✓ | |
| • Ability to work independently and show initiative / seek advice when appropriate. Ability to work with others in a research team. | ✓ | |
| • Willingness to travel for training, research team meetings and recruitment. (Note: data collection will require a valid driving licence and access to independent means of transport). | ✓ | |



	ESSENTIAL	DESIRABLE
Experience of working with people with complex and/or severe mental health problems, in either a voluntary, clinical or research capacity.		✓
Experience of recruiting clinical participants to research projects.		✓
Experience of administering psychological tests, interviews and/or questionnaires.		✓
Ability to quickly learn new clinical assessments and psychological tests.		✓
Knowledge of clinical trials methodology and experimental psychology.		✓