

Research Assistant (full-time)	
Role Description	

Grade & Salary:	<p>Grade 4, £26,243 (pro-rata).</p> <p>This full-time role (1.0 FTE) is for a fixed term of 16 months, however we will consider applications from individuals who prefer a part-time (0.5 FTE) position (please state preference on application).</p>
Campus Location:	Sighthill Campus
Line Manager:	Dr Paul Hutton
Line Management Responsibility for:	N/A
Role Summary:	<p>The post-holder will join the DEC:IDES (Decision-making Capacity: Intervention Development & Evaluation in Schizophrenia-spectrum disorder) trial. DEC:IDES 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 treatment decision making capacity in people with psychosis. DEC:IDES is running in three UK sites; Lothian, Bury and Lancashire.</p> <p>The post-holder will work with the Chief Investigator (Dr Paul Hutton), the NHS Lothian Principal Investigator (Dr Sean Harper) 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 DEC:IDES.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>This is a full-time (1.0 FTE) fixed-term (16 months) position, however we will consider applications from individuals who prefer a part-time (0.5 FTE) position (please state your preference on your application form).</p>

Main Duties and Responsibilities

➤	Raise awareness of the DEC:IDES trial with potential referrers in Scotland, and invite people with psychosis to participate. This will involve regular liason 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 DEC:IDES.
➤	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 outwith the University.
➤	Assist in the dissemination of information relating to the research project, i.e., producing reports, presentations and papers for publication.
➤	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

Attributes	Essential Requirements	Desirable Requirements
Education/Qualifications	Good (2.1 or 1 st class) undergraduate (UG) degree in a relevant academic or clinical discipline (e.g., psychology, social sciences, nursing) or good (2.1 or 1 st class) UG degree in other disciplines plus completion of a postgraduate (BPS-accredited) conversion degree in psychology.	Knowledge of issues surrounding the care of people with psychosis Knowledge of psychological interventions for psychosis. Completion of Good Clinical Practice (GCP) training.
Experience	Experience of working with people with mental health difficulties, in either a voluntary, clinical or research capacity. Experience in conducting	Experience of working with people with complex and/or severe mental health problems, in either a voluntary, clinical or research capacity.

	<p>quantitative data analysis.</p> <p>Experience of using SPSS or other statistical software packages.</p>	<p>Experience of recruiting clinical participants to research projects.</p> <p>Experience of administering psychological tests, interviews and/or questionnaires.</p> <p>Experience in conducting qualitative data analysis.</p> <p>Experience of using qualitative research software packages (e.g., NVivo).</p>
<p>Skills/Personal Requirements</p>	<p>Ability to engage patients with complex and/or severe mental health problems.</p> <p>An interest in psychological approaches to understanding and treating psychosis.</p> <p>Excellent IT skills and experience of data entry, data cleaning and organisation of files.</p> <p>Excellent written and verbal communication skills, including presentation and report writing skills.</p> <p>Excellent organisation, prioritisation and time management skills, with a flexible approach to working.</p> <p>Strong attention to detail.</p> <p>Ability to work independently and show initiative / seek advice when appropriate. Ability to work with others in a research team.</p> <p>Willingness to travel for training, research team meetings and recruitment. (Note: attendance at training and meetings will include occasional visits to England; recruitment and data collection will require a valid</p>	<p>Ability to quickly learn new clinical assessments and psychological tests.</p> <p>Knowledge of clinical trials methodology and experimental psychology.</p>

	driving licence and access to independent means of transport)	
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