

# Research Fellow - ALERT: Scottish Veterans Suicide Study



## ROLE DESCRIPTION

### GRADE

Grade 5

14 hours per week

### LOCATION

Business School -  
Centre for Military  
Research, Education and  
Public Engagement

### LINE MANAGER

Dr Gerri Matthews-  
Smith

### ROLE SUMMARY

We are currently seeking a part time Research Fellow who will support the research team over a 24-month period.

The Armed Forces Covenant are supporting a study conducted by Edinburgh Napier University, Centre for Military Research, Education and Public Engagement (CMREPE) in partnership with NHS Lothian, Scottish Veterans Wellbeing Alliance. Working across the Scottish public and 3rd sector and informed by veterans, ALERT will research, innovate teach and disseminate evidence-based innovations which support veterans at risk of suicide, ensuring a specific focus on veterans who are most at risk, whether that is through identity, interest, or place.

To address the key questions of what works for whom in what set of circumstances, the study will employ a realist evaluation design employing four workstreams, which will contribute significantly to evidence-based practice of what works to help prevent suicide and self-harm for veterans in Scotland. Data will be gathered and evaluated in relation to different interventions and responses will be used to examine perceptions of the various interventions offered. Findings will address areas of 'gaps', positive opportunities to develop and embed interventions and themes related to perceptions and expectations. Recommendations will be provided as to how the key outcomes can be developed into a plan to mainstream and sustain the interventions.

To address the key considerations, conducted across five workstreams we will:

1. Conduct a comprehensive review of the existing literature relating to veterans' self-harm and suicidal presentations.
2. Review existing evidence on which monitoring, and assessment tools will be used across interventions.
3. Implementation of adapted Interpersonal Psychotherapy for veterans (IPT-V) and examination of the effectiveness.
4. Examine the effectiveness of existing social prescribing initiatives delivered by the Wellbeing Alliance, including the exploration of engagement techniques and activities to understand the current practices. This will be achieved using questionnaires, interviews, and focus groups of Veterans, Service Providers and Family members.
5. Verification and dissemination of key findings across the UK through appreciative inquiry workshops with key stakeholders, veterans, and respondents.

The primary purpose of the role is to assist in fieldwork, as well as manage and process the data collected from the study. The study will employ a realist evaluation design, therefore experience of this approach as well as conducting interviews and focus group discussions are strongly desirable in the successful candidate. A mental health background is also essential. The post holder will also be expected to contribute to increasing the quality and quantity of research produced by the Military Transitions Research Group (the research team) and to promote its impact on policy and practice.

**LINE MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITY FOR:**

This role does not have any line management responsibilities currently.

## MAIN DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

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The post-holder will be responsible for collecting data and assisting with managing and processing this. The study will be conducted with a variety of military stakeholders including support services, local councils and NHS Scotland. This will entail recruiting participants, as well as organising and conducting interviews and focus groups.

The Research Fellow will also take a leading role in collecting and organising the data and assist with reporting to the research steering group. The appointed Research Fellow will also be involved in developing publications from the study and in developing further research proposals. More generally, the Research Fellow will play an active and dynamic role in building research capacity and capability across the Business School.

This post requires self-motivation and determination to ensure that the study is delivered successfully. It is an excellent opportunity to work with more senior colleagues and the wider expert community, to develop more skills and to lay the groundwork for further career development in research.

### Key Accountabilities:

- Completion of fieldwork working with the Primary Investigator (Dr Gerri Matthews-Smith).
- Assistance with submission bids for research funding.
- Developing good working relationships with members of the research team.
- Making a clear contribution to the research culture by, for example, giving a seminar, teaching a skills workshop, peer reviewing colleagues' research papers or bids or introduce an innovative way of building research capacity or developing impact.

### Key Relationships (Internal & External):

- Project Steering Group for the study.
- Participants in the study (military personnel, local council and Government, third sector charities related to military lives).
- Project team.
- Research team.
- Staff members across the school
- Post-graduate students
- Early career researchers
- National and international scholars in areas of research interest

### Team Specific:

- To take a leading role in ensuring the successful completion of the study.
- To work collaboratively on publications from the study.

- To work collaboratively on the development and submission of bids for funding.

#### Generic:

- Contribute to the academic life of Business School.
- To be available to teaching staff in the Faculty and PhD students to advise on specific areas of research expertise.
- Understand and implement policies and guidelines in relation to the administration of the School and University.

#### Managing Self:

- Manage own time productively.
- Ensure good work/life balance.
- Establish good working relationships with the project team, the wider research team and other members of the Faculty.

### PERSON SPECIFICATION

	ESSENTIAL	DESIRABLE
<b>EDUCATION / QUALIFICATIONS</b>		
• PhD in a social science or a related social science discipline.	✓	
• Mental health qualification	✓	
• Project management		✓
<b>SKILLS / EXPERIENCE</b>		
• Experience of recruiting participants to research studies	✓	
• A strong background in realist evaluation and/or qualitative research methods including interviews, focus groups and qualitative data analysis.	✓	
• Experience of data collection, in particular, conducting interviews	✓	
• Mental health background	✓	
• Able to process and manage data collected during the course of a study, i.e. examples of studies where the applicant has done this.	✓	



	ESSENTIAL	DESIRABLE
• Able to organise and manage own work	✓	
• Ability to present research results at group meetings and conferences and communicating complex information effectively, both orally and in writing	✓	
• Ability to use data analysis software packages such as Nvivo and SPSS	✓	
• Adhere to, and promote, the University's Equality and Diversity policies.	✓	
• Ensure compliance with Health & Safety regulations.	✓	
• Support and promote the University's Sustainability policies and carry out duties in a resource efficient way, recognising the shared responsibility of minimising the university's negative environmental impacts wherever possible.	✓	
• Experience of realist evaluation studies		✓
• Evidence of having completed own research project.		✓
• Previous publications or recent publication submissions.		✓
• Involvement in a successful application for research funding.		✓
• Familiarity with qualitative research methods		✓
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