

THE POST

College:	University of Exeter Medical School (UEMS) http://medicine.exeter.ac.uk/
Post:	Research Fellow in Health Economics
Reference No:	P49371
Grade:	F
HERA:	RFEL
Reporting To:	Professor Anne Spencer
Responsible For:	N/A

The above post is available immediately in the Health Economics Group, Institute of Health Research, University of Exeter Medical School.

Job Description

The University of Exeter Medical School (UEMS) is engaging in world leading research that has local, national and global impact. As a central and successful part of the University of Exeter, which is a member of the Russell Group, the Medical School builds on the success of the Peninsula College of Medicine & Dentistry (a 10-year partnership with Plymouth University). The University of Exeter was The Sunday Times University of the Year 2012-13 and ranks in the top one per cent of universities in the world according to the Times Higher Education international rankings.

The Research Environment

This post is joint between the (UEMS) Health Economics Group and Peninsula Collaboration for Health Operational Research and Development (PenCHORD). Both research groups are based in the same building in the Institute of Health Research, providing a central focus for research into health economics and modelling and evaluating health service delivery. The post will appeal to anyone with a keen interest in collaborative/cross-disciplinary working and specifically in the challenges of incorporating health economic analysis into operational research of health service delivery.

The Health Economics Group has a programme of research and teaching aligned to the conduct of high quality policy-relevant research and education. Research is focused on informing decisions around the delivery of healthcare and on the economic aspects of health and disease, including research on the factors that determine our health and wellbeing. Research in health economics represents:

- Application of economic principles to health and healthcare;
- Economic evaluation of health technologies (design, conduct and analysis of applied economic evaluations), and methodology for the conduct of economic evaluation;
- Evidence syntheses, using review methods and economic modelling;
- Measurement and valuation of health outcomes;
- Economics of population health (e.g. obesity, development & ageing, mental health, determinants of health & wellbeing);
- Equity in health and healthcare;
- Research on 'risk' and 'ambiguity' in health and healthcare.

Current activities cover a wide range of applied and methodological projects, across many disease areas. The Group have a strong programme of research in the area of health outcomes, health valuation/preference elicitation, and a broad programme of work in neurodegenerative diseases, involving applied methodological research and economic evaluation. The Group works closely with the clinical trials unit/network, and has

close links with applied methodologists (e.g. operational research/modelling, statistics, qualitative research). See <http://medicine.exeter.ac.uk/research/healthserv/healthconomics/> for a listing of projects and for further information.

PenCHORD is a multi-disciplinary team using economic analysis and operational research (OR) methods (such as modelling, simulation and forecasting) for applied healthcare research. PenCHORD use a range of modelling techniques, from simple markov models to more complex discrete event simulation models. A key and growing area of interest is the integration of health economics and cost effectiveness modelling within the field of health service delivery using operational research methods.

The primary aims of PenCHORD are:

- to become a centre of excellence in the OR field;
- to increase regional and national awareness of the potential of OR research in healthcare;
- to promote exchange of knowledge between OR researchers and the NHS;
- to develop the facility to a point that it becomes self-sustaining through external funding (e.g. through the Knowledge Transfer Partnerships scheme and the NIHR Health Service and Delivery Research programme); and
- to disseminate research findings via appropriate journals and local/regional NHS and academic networks.
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See <http://clahrc-peninsula.nihr.ac.uk/penchord> for a listing of projects and for further information.

Main purpose of the job:

This is a new post, created to increase capacity in health economics, to provide support for two research projects/areas.

- **NeoNet: The right cot, at the right time, at the right place 2** - Providing a national demand/capacity model for neonatal care in England.
- **ReTrain** – a pilot cost effectiveness study looking at stroke rehabilitation (funded by the Stroke Association)

The majority of the time the post holder will be working on the National Institute of Health Research (NIHR) funded 'NeoNet: The right cot, at the right time, at the right place 2' project, building upon the success of the pilot model of the South West Region. The overarching aim of this project is to understand current and potential future national patterns of neonatal care by location of demand and care, acuity of care, and cost of care to service providers and parents. Modelling will allow us to investigate the trade-offs between different service configurations with varying degrees of centralisation (e.g. by changing the number of the highest level of unit). The planned research is led by the University of Exeter Medical School in collaboration with the Neonatal Data Analysis Unit based at Imperial College, London, with the Neonatal Critical Care Clinical Reference Group acting as the steering body.

There are four main HE components to this project which will help feed into and inform this modelling work:

- a) **Improve the methods to estimate family costs** – Reanalyse an existing dataset using regression analysis to explore the family costs associated with neonatal care.
- b) **Greater clarity on cost of neonatal bed days** – Examine more systematically the existing cost structures in neonatal units, by liaising with the service teams in this area, to determine how we might adjust the costs of neonatal as we vary service configuration.
- c) **What should inform service reconfiguration?** – Explore the factors that policy makers and families would like to see taken into consideration in determining service reconfiguration and explore how we might weight these competing outcomes, based on the views of families and/or members of the general population, using choices modelling techniques.
- d) **How can we integrate cost effectiveness and OR models?** – Investigate the methodology needed to model cost effectiveness for NHS service delivery alternatives (as embodied in the focus of the NeoNet research model). Explore how standard approaches (e.g. as adopted in health technology assessment) might need to be extended to account for factors specific to service delivery.

The post will provide an excellent opportunity for a researcher who would like to explore the methodological changes of adapting cost and outcome data to inform the modelling of different service configurations. There will also be the opportunity to further the post holders own research and to develop new skills (using packages such as SIMUL8 or R), and gain wide experience in a rapidly growing, vibrant research environment.

Main duties and accountabilities (at Research Fellow):

1. To undertake high quality health economics research, including where appropriate:
 - Collaborative research support to multi-disciplinary research teams on provision of health economic analyses (e.g. cost analyses, cost-effectiveness analyses, decision-analytic modelling, health outcomes research);
 - Provide high quality and timely health economics input to support the successful development of research funding applications / proposals;
 - Critical review and synthesis of relevant literature;
 - Developing research ideas, including research objectives, projects and proposals;
 - Conducting individual or collaborative research projects;
 - Identifying sources of funding and contributing to the process of securing funds;
 - Extending, transforming and applying knowledge acquired from scholarship to research and appropriate external activities;
 - Writing or contributing to publications or disseminating research findings using media appropriate to the discipline;
 - Making presentations at conferences or exhibiting work in other appropriate events;
 - Assessing, interpreting and evaluating outcomes of research;
 - Developing new concepts and ideas to extend intellectual understanding;
 - Resolving problems of meeting research objectives and deadlines;
 - Developing ideas for generating income and promoting research area;
 - Developing ideas for application of research outcomes;
2. To contribute to teaching and learning programmes in the School and to supervise postgraduate research students.
3. Developing in this role, to act as research team leader, where appropriate, including:
 - Mentoring colleagues with less experience and advising on their professional development;
 - Coaching and supporting colleagues in developing their research techniques;
 - Supervising the work of others, for example in research teams or projects;
 - Developing productive working relationships with other members of staff;
 - Co-ordinating the work of colleagues to ensure equitable access to resources and facilities;
 - Dealing with standard problems and help colleagues to resolve their concerns about progress in research.
4. Through research roles, as appropriate, to communicate complex and conceptual ideas to those with limited knowledge as well as to peers using high level skills and a range of media and to present the results of scientific research to sponsors and at conferences.
5. Developing in this role, to be able to plan, co-ordinate and implement research, including:
 - Input to managing the use of research resources and ensure that effective use is made of them;
 - Input to managing research budgets;
 - Helping to plan and implement commercial and consultancy activities (under guidance from Head of Group);
 - Development in order to plan and manage own consultancy assignments (under agreement/guidance from Head of Group).

This job description summarises the main duties and accountabilities of the post and is not comprehensive: the post-holder may be required to undertake other duties of similar level and responsibility. Please visit the Human Resources website to view the Research Fellow role profiles.

Person Specification

Competency	Essential	Desirable
Attainments/Qualifications	<p>To have research experience recognised at national level of importance in the area of health economics or healthcare modelling.</p> <p>Undergraduate degree or equivalent in a relevant area (e.g. economics, statistics, operational research, psychology, health or social science).</p> <p>PhD or equivalent in a related field of study or equivalent research experience.</p>	<p>Undergraduate degree with First or 2.1 award.</p> <p>Masters level award in health-related discipline.</p>
Skills and Understanding	<p>Demonstrable specialist knowledge of health economics and/or healthcare modelling.</p> <p>Record of research output in nationally recognised peer-reviewed journals, (incl. economics/health-related publications).</p> <p>Good statistical/quantitative skills.</p> <p>Good understanding of UK health policy-making/HTA environment.</p>	
Prior Experience	<p>Experience and demonstrable track record in design and delivery of economic analyses, including healthcare cost analyses and/or or health outcomes analyses.</p> <p>Knowledge of undertaking economic evaluation (in health context), and demonstrable awareness of techniques and presentation of results.</p> <p>Experience of model-based economic evaluation (including decision-analytic modelling).</p> <p>Knowledge/awareness in development of research funding applications.</p>	<p>Experience of teaching at undergraduate level.</p> <p>Experience of postgraduate teaching and supervision.</p> <p>Experience of acting as principal investigator on research projects.</p> <p>Experience in development of research funding applications.</p> <p>Experience of managing research projects and/or research teams.</p>
Behavioural Characteristics	<p>Excellent written and verbal communication skills.</p> <p>Able to communicate complex and conceptual ideas to a range of groups.</p> <p>Ability to manage time/workload and prioritise with minimal supervision.</p> <p>Evidence of the ability to collaborate actively within the Institution and externally to complete research projects and advance thinking.</p> <p>Able to participate in and develop external networks.</p>	

	Able to balance the pressures of research, administrative demands and competing deadlines.	
Circumstances	Willingness to travel to research sites/conferences/events.	

Informal Enquiries

Before submitting an application you may wish to discuss the post further by contacting either Anne Spencer, Associate Professor of Health Economics, telephone (01392 726441) or email a.e.spencer@exeter.ac.uk or Martin Pitt, Associate Professor of healthcare modelling and simulation, telephone (01392 726082) or email m.pitt@exeter.ac.uk.

Additional Information Relating to the Post

Salary

The starting salary will be from £33,242 up to £35,256 on Grade F, depending on qualifications and experience.

An increment will be payable on 1 August each year until the top of the scale is reached (subject to being in post for 6 months and satisfactory performance). The scale will be subject to a cost of living review each year.

Hours of work

Hours of work will be 36.5 hours per week (full-time) but staff at this level may be required to work additional hours to meet the requirements of the role.

Annual Leave

The annual leave entitlement for full-time appointments is 41 days per calendar year (pro rata for part-time appointments). For further information see our website <http://www.admin.ex.ac.uk/personnel/leave.shtml>.

Probationary Period

The appointment will normally be subject to a probationary period of one year.

References & Medical Clearance

All appointments are subject to satisfactory reference and medical checks and individuals will be required to complete a medical assessment form before appointment is confirmed. Applicants should note that the University normally contacts referees for short-listed applicants without further advice to applicants. When advising of referees, if they are resident overseas, please ensure you supply fax numbers and/or email addresses enabling us to contact them (if necessary) without delay.

Right to Work in the United Kingdom

We welcome all applicants and the diversity they bring. However, the nature of this role, the salary and the qualifications required, mean that immigration legislation will not allow the University to apply for a sponsorship certificate for this post. We strongly recommend that applicants that are non EEA nationals consult the Right to Work rules on the Home Office website at: www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk.

In particular you are encouraged to undertake a self assessment of your eligibility to work in the UK using the link to www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/pointscalculator.

Terms & Conditions

The Terms and Conditions of Employment can be viewed on line by visiting <http://www.exeter.ac.uk/staff/employment/conditions/terms/>

Pensions

Membership of the Universities' Superannuation Scheme (USS) is automatic provided that you meet the qualifying criteria for membership. The USS is a contracted-out scheme. USS scheme has two sections: Final Salary and Career Revalued Benefits; which section you will be eligible for will depend on any previous membership of USS. An information leaflet concerning the qualification rules for both the sections is enclosed; more detailed information about the USS scheme structure can be found at www.uss.co.uk. **IF you have been in USS before, you are strongly requested to contact the Pay and Benefits Office as soon**

as you can so that possible membership of the Final Salary benefits section can be investigated. The University, as your employer, contributes such sums as will be required to maintain the full benefits of the scheme. You may opt out of the scheme; if you wish to do so, you should contact the Pay and Benefits Manager, Mrs Alison Rose (01392 263088/email a.j.rose@exeter.ac.uk) for further information. Further information about Pension Salary Exchange is available from the Human Resources website www.admin.exeter.ac.uk/personnel or from the Pensions Office.

Relocation

You may be able to claim relocation expenses in accordance with the University's Relocation Assistance Scheme. The maximum allowance that you can reclaim under the Relocation Assistance Scheme, if eligible, is 10% of salary.

Short-listing Information

We will acknowledge your application by email. The University of Exeter recognises the time and effort taken to apply for a position and will contact you by email to inform you of results of shortlisting

Application Procedure and Interview Information

The closing date for completed applications is **Thursday 13th August 2015.**

Data Protection Act (1998)

The information contained within your application is being requested to enable the University to make employment decisions and meet statutory obligations. Any information provided to the University in this context will be treated confidentially and used only by manager(s), member of the University, Human Resources, Superannuation and Payroll during the course of your employment. Where the application relates to a post which is externally funded this information may be passed onto the relevant funding body.