

Job Description

Job title	Research Associate - Mental Health Care and Dementia
School / department	The Geller Institute of Ageing and Memory
Grade	Research B
Line manager	Professor of Ageing and Dementia
Responsible for (direct reports)	N/A
Date of creation or review	03/09/2024

Main purpose of the job

The post will have a key role in the delivery of an NIHR study that will focus on understand carer experiences when a person living with dementia is detained within a mental health ward, and staff rationales and responses to carers. This 30-month mixed methods study utilises a mixed methods design, integrating a national survey, interviews, ethnography, and experience-based co-design. The goal is to deliver co-designed evidence-based strategies to improve how mental health wards involve and support carers and improve patient outcomes.

The post-holder will work closely with the PI (and a second study post-doctoral RA) on all aspects of the study. In addition, the post holder will have career development opportunities, including contributing to the writing and development of study outputs, research funding applications and the delivery of postgraduate education programmes within the Geller Institute of Ageing and Memory (GIAM).

Applications for this position are invited from candidates who have experience of working on qualitative research projects in mental health or dementia as well as excellent communication and organisational skills. We are particularly keen to receive applications from candidates with experience of ethnographic data collection in NHS settings.

Key areas of responsibility

1. Provide day-to-day organisation and delivery of the research.
2. Work with the project PI to ensure the project is fulfilling its objectives, meeting its targets, and producing meaningful outputs.
3. Support the delivery of qualitative data collection, data management, and analysis. Collecting data from within NHS mental health wards across UK sites.
4. Coordinate outreach and recruitment liaising with partner organisations and participants.
5. Support the co-production programme and the design and delivery of outputs, dissemination, and impact.
6. Be familiar with the Mental Capacity Act and obtaining appropriate consent or agreement from people with dementia and other stakeholders who participate in the study.
7. Contribute to writing of study publications, reports, and outputs. Lead maintenance of a study reference database.

8. Provide research administration support including organising research team, Advisory Group, PPIE, and collaborator meetings and making action notes.

In addition to the above areas of responsibility the post-holder maybe required to undertake any other reasonable duties relating to the broad scope of the position, commensurate with the post, and in support of the University.

Dimensions / background information

The Geller Institute of Ageing and Memory

We are a flagship Institute at the University of West London (UWL), delivering interdisciplinary applied research and education. Our focus is on delivering the evidence to inform high quality, cutting edge, health and social care to benefit people living with dementia, older people, and their care partners and families.

At the heart of our mission is to ensure the most vulnerable populations of people living with dementia and older people have better experiences of health and social care and are supported in living well and living at home for longer. All our research and education programmes are guided by an inclusive approach.

We are an interdisciplinary team, with expertise in sociology, psychology, social policy, epidemiology, nursing, and philosophy, with our research drawing upon a wide range of methodologies.

Our research funding incorporates Department of Health and Social Care contracts (via NIHR), funding from national and international charities, and philanthropic support. We have established a reputation for the rapid translation of our research into impact, which is informing public discourse, shaping the policy agenda, and translated into practice improvements.

Our postgraduate education programmes offer interdisciplinary, research focused, evidence-based teaching and supervision. Our postgraduate courses are designed to cultivate leaders in ageing and dementia care, and improve practice across health and social care settings.

The Institute is based within The School of Medicine and Biosciences. For further details and to see our team, please visit: <https://www.uwl.ac.uk/research/research-centres-and-groups/geller-institute-ageing-and-memory>

The School of Medicine and Biosciences

The School of Medicine and Biosciences at UWL, is an interdisciplinary research-driven School, embedded within an area of West London with diverse populations and significant pockets of both deprivation and affluence. We work in partnership with policy makers and practitioners to improve the health of our communities and reduce inequalities, developing and delivering hyperlocal health and social care initiatives, which have the potential to scale up locally and nationally. We deliver research-led undergraduate and postgraduate taught courses in Biosciences and Dementia Care. Our research themes: Ageing and dementia; Healthcare inequalities; Public Health; Gene-targeted cancer therapy; and Translational Medicine.

This post is based in Ealing, West London. The applicant will be required to travel across the UK to collect data, expenses will be paid. Travel will involve some overnight stays.

Person Specification

	Criteria	Essential or Desirable ¹	Demonstrated ²		
			Application	Interview	Test / Exercise
Qualifications and/or membership of prof. bodies	PhD in relevant discipline and health related topic (such as dementia, mental health, psychology, nursing)	Essential	x	x	
Work experience	Experience of conducting research with people with dementia and/or their family carers	Essential	x	x	
	Experience of coordinating and communicating with NHS sites and collaborative partners.	Essential	x	x	
	Experience of, in-depth interviews and ethnography.	Essential	x	x	
Specific skills to the job	Outreach and collaboration with NHS and community organisations and recruitment of sites and participants.	Essential	x	x	
	Evidence of drafting and submitting high quality peer reviewed publications.	Essential	x	x	
	Understanding and experience of co-production methodologies and application	Essential	x	x	
General skills	Good organisational and time and project management skills	Essential	x	x	
	Good interpersonal skills and the ability to build relationships with research sites, participants and research team	Essential	x	x	
	Ability to use initiative and make decisions related to the role.	Essential	x	x	
Other	Willingness to working flexibly, with research sites and partners across England and Wales.	Essential	x	x	

Disclosure and Barring Scheme Is a DBS Check required: (DBS) This post requires an enhanced DBS check - with Adult Barred Check

Before making a selection, please refer to the University's [Disclosure and Barring Checks Guidance for Staff](#) and [Criminal Convictions, Disclosures and Barring Staff Policy and Procedure](#). If a DBS check is required for the role, a **Check Approval Form** will need to be completed.

¹**Essential Criteria** are those, without which, a candidate would not be able to do the job. Applicants who have not clearly demonstrated in their application that they possess the essential requirements will normally be rejected at the shortlisting stage.

Desirable Criteria are those that would be useful for the post holder to possess and will be considered when more than one applicant meets the essential requirements, to determine which applicants to shortlist.

² **Demonstration:** Select the Recruitment Process stage at which the candidates will have to demonstrate that they meet the criteria. Criteria which have to be demonstrated at application stage should be mentioned in the Recruitment Information Pack as Pre-Selection/Killer Questions, Shortlisting Questions or Shortlisting Criteria. Other criteria should be evaluated and tested at interview stage (e.g. through interview questions) or through additional tests, exercises or presentations. Criteria can (and should) be demonstrated at multiple stages.