

## Research Assistant - School of Health, Social Work and Sport - Grade E

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### Job Description

#### **Purpose**

As part of a team of experienced researchers, the Research Assistant will contribute to strengthening and supporting the thematic research area of Health and Wellbeing with day-to-day responsibility for data collection and, in collaboration with colleagues, data analysis and writing of reports. The post-holder will work together with the University's Healthy and Sustainable Settings Unit (HSSU) and Cumberland Council in the context of the Health Determinants Research Collaboration (HDRC), whilst further developing their own aligned research skills and experience. They will actively participate in the development and dissemination of research with peers, external stakeholders and relevant organisations.

The post is located at the University's Westlakes campus near Whitehaven in West Cumbria and contributes to the development and implementation of a programme of research that is both aligned to the University's Westlakes integrated business plan and embedded in the Healthy and Sustainable Settings Unit at the University's Preston Campus reflecting the World Health Organisation's Healthy Settings initiative.

#### **Duties**

1. To contribute to all aspects of research and knowledge exchange undertaken by the Westlakes Research theme of Health and Wellbeing within a settings and placed-based framework, in collaboration with Cumberland Council, where appropriate and agreed by all relevant partners.
2. Under the direction and guidance of Prof. Michelle Baybutt, undertake qualitative and quantitative research with real-world impact, participating in data collection, analysis, interpretation, synthesis and management.
3. To contribute to the collation of findings and the preparation of written outputs (reports and papers) to disseminate research findings - including refereed journal articles and conference papers.
4. To provide administrative support, facilitate project-planning and operational update meetings, and contribute to the day-to-day management of research project resources and/or facilities as required.
5. Supporting the Director of the HSSU by contributing to new bid/grant applications and report writing for the West Lakes Research Cluster, HSSU and aligned the University's Research Institutes.
6. To contribute to the development of new projects including support to established researchers at Westlakes and the HSSU.
7. To adhere to appropriate ethical, and research governance, standards for research and protect confidentiality throughout this work.
8. To undertake any other additional research related activities as requested by the nominated line manager/Director of the Healthy and Sustainable Settings Unit or the Dean of School.

## Person Specification

### **Knowledge, Skills, and Behaviours (Essential)**

- Experience of working in a Public Health field related to healthy communities (Application/Interview).
- Experience of undertaking research using qualitative and/or quantitative methodologies and of writing high quality research reports and contributing to peer reviewed publications (Application/Interview).
- Undergraduate degree or equivalent in a relevant area (Application).
- Master's Degree or higher post-graduate qualification in an area related to Public Health (Application).
- Skills in research, innovation, impact and/or knowledge exchange (Application/Interview).
- Ability to build professional networks for project development and research impact (Application/Interview).
- IT literacy & competence in Microsoft applications and research software applications (NVivo and SPSS) (Application/Interview).
- Excellent verbal and written communications and interpersonal skills (Application/Interview).
- Excellent organisational skills, and the ability to self-motivate and work effectively as part of a team (Application/Interview).
- Ability to work flexibly to accommodate the needs of the role and which may take place outside of office hours (Application/Interview).
- An understanding of and demonstrable commitment to the University's Values of Achieving Together, Being Proud, Creating Opportunity and Supporting All, as a framework for decisions, actions and behaviours (Application/Interview).

### **Knowledge, Skills, and Behaviours (Desirable)**

- Experience of working in a field related to coastal communities (Application/Interview).
- Experience of applying settings or place-based approaches (Application/Interview).
- Experience of conducting literature reviews (Application/Interview).
- Experience of co-production with difficult to engage groups/communities (Application/Interview).
- Demonstration of academic or professional development in support of your area of research expertise (Application/Interview).
- Training in research methods (Application/Interview).