

Research Associate, Clinical Operational Research Unit

Further Particulars

Applications are invited for a full-time Postdoctoral Research Associate to work in the UCL Clinical Operational Research Unit (CORU).

This document sets out the following information for the appointment of this Postdoctoral Research Associate, Reference 1321972.

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Terms and Conditions can be found at: http://www.ucl.ac.uk/hr/salary_scales/Support_Research_tcs.php

Application Procedure

Applications for the position should be made online at <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/hr/jobs/> and click on the 'Click Here for UCL Current Vacancies' link. Any candidates unable to apply online or with queries regarding the application process should contact Mrs Soheni Francis, tel: +44 (0)20 7679 2839, email: s.datta@ucl.ac.uk.

Applications should include:

- a curriculum vitae (including list of publications)
- a statement of research interests and plans
- the names and addresses of **three** referees - *please do not provide more or less than the required 3 referees.*
- details of current salary
- for candidates not submitting their details online, a completed Personal Details/Equal Opportunities Classification Form – please request this form from Mrs Francis if you are unable to apply online.

The closing date for applications is **Sunday, 3 November 2013**. The post is available from 1 December 2013 or as soon as possible thereafter, and is funded by the UK Department of Health for 2 years in the first instance.

Interviews (in person or via Skype) are planned for November 2013. A second interview may be required for this post.

Informal enquiries may be addressed to Professor Martin Utley, tel: +44(0)20-7679-4506, email m.utley@ucl.ac.uk.

We particularly welcome female applicants and those from an ethnic minority, as they are currently under-represented within UCL at this level.

Further Details

A vacancy exists for a Research Associate to work within the Clinical Operational Research Unit (CORU) at University College London. CORU is a small team of researchers applying operational research to problems in health care. This currently involves two main strands of work: projects with clinicians and managers in NHS organisations tackling problems of relevance to them and work informing national health protection policy for the Department of Health. Further details of CORU's work can be found on the internet (<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/operational-research>). The projects will most likely be a combination of national policy work and projects with local partner hospitals, potentially as part of a recently awarded CLAHRC (<http://www.nihr.ac.uk/infrastructure/Pages/CLAHRCs.aspx>).

The main duties of the successful applicant will be to contribute to the development of mathematical and simulation models and computer software, to lead the collation and analysis of data relevant to individual projects and to contribute to the preparation of research articles for publication. With much of our work implemented in hospitals or influencing national policy, excellent attention to detail is crucial.

Key to the success of CORU is that the majority of our projects are conducted in close collaboration with NHS staff and/or Department of Health staff. The successful applicant will therefore be expected to communicate effectively with collaborators from a range of disciplines as required and to become acquainted with health service operation at all levels. Working at CORU is a little different to a 'standard postdoc' – all of our work is collaborative, usually involving working closely with at least one other person at CORU and at least one person in another department or organisation. Usually projects involve teams of four or more people and you are likely to be working on more than one project at any given time. The range of work we undertake requires team members to be flexible in problem-solving approaches and to be willing to learn new methods as necessary.

Given our collaboration with external organisations, CORU team members are expected to work core office hours. Some travel to meetings at Department of Health and NHS sites is expected. Often this activity will necessarily take place outside normal working hours. Some projects may require some working within hospital sites, potentially necessitating criminal record checks.

In addition, the successful applicant will be expected to carry out any other duties that are within the scope, spirit and purpose of the job, the title of the post and its grading as requested by the Director of CORU. This will involve joining your colleagues in general tasks to help working life in the unit. As duties and responsibilities change, the job description will be reviewed and amended in consultation with the postholder.

Please note, there is currently also a Grade 8 Senior Research Associate post available at CORU which is being advertised alongside this post (Reference 1369429).

About the North Thames CLAHRC

The UK government has recently announced the establishment of 13 Collaborations for Leadership in Applied Health Research and Care (CLAHRCs) across England, funded by NIHR. CLAHRCs undertake applied health research targeted at chronic disease and public health interventions and support the translation of research evidence into NHS practice.

The North Thames CLAHRC, led by Professor Rosalind Raine, includes universities, UCLPartners, NHS trusts, clinical commissioning groups, local authorities, industries and charities across north central and north east London, south and west Hertfordshire, south Bedfordshire and south west and mid Essex.

Our university partners are UCL, Queen Mary University of London, the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, London School of Economics and Political Science, The Institute of Education and the University of East London.

Our aims are to conduct world leading applied health research, shaped locally and of national and global relevance, which improves patients' services and health and which reduces health and health care inequalities. We will cultivate strong partnerships, a research infra-structure and a shared commitment to implementation of evidence based practice at pace and scale. We will establish a CLAHRC Academy for the innovative teaching and training of world class applied researchers and the development of research aware and research active practitioners.

About UCL

Background Information

UCL is one of the world's top universities. Based in the heart of London, it is a modern, outward looking institution. At its establishment in 1826, UCL was radical and responsive to the needs of society, and this ethos – that excellence should go hand-in-hand with enriching society – continues today.

UCL's excellence extends across all academic disciplines; from one of Europe's largest and most productive hubs for biomedical science interacting with several leading London hospitals, to world-renowned centres for architecture (UCL Bartlett) and fine art (UCL Slade School). UCL is in practice a university in its own right, although constitutionally a college within the federal University of London. With an annual turnover exceeding £800 million, it is financially and managerially independent of the University of London.

The UCL community

UCL's staff and former students have included 21 Nobel prize winners. It is a truly international community: more than one-third of our student body – nearly 27,000 strong – come from 150 countries and nearly one-third of staff are from outside the UK.

UCL offers postgraduate research opportunities in all of its subjects, and provides about 200 undergraduate programmes and more than 400 taught postgraduate programmes. Approximately 45% of the student community is engaged in graduate studies, with about 37% of these graduate students pursuing research degrees.

Quality of UCL's teaching and learning

UCL has one of the highest student satisfaction levels in the UK, more professors than any other UK university and the best academic to student ratio of any UK university (*The Times*, 2013), enabling small class sizes and outstanding individual support.

In the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE), UCL was rated the best research university in London, and third in the UK overall, for the number of its submissions that were considered of 'world leading quality'. The RAE confirmed UCL's multi-disciplinary research strength, with outstanding results achieved across the subjects, ranging from biomedicine, science and engineering and the built environment to laws, social sciences and arts and humanities.

UCL is independently ranked as the most productive research university in Europe (SIR). The Thomson Scientific Citation Index – which catalogues journal articles and citations in the sciences, social sciences and arts and humanities – shows that UCL is the second most-highly cited European university.

Location and working environment

Based in Bloomsbury, UCL is a welcoming, inclusive university situated at the heart of one of the world's greatest cities. UCL's central campus is spread across approximately three square kilometres of central London and is within easy reach of Euston, King's Cross and Marylebone mainline stations, the Eurostar terminal at St Pancras and the following Underground stations – Euston Square, Warren Street, Gode Street and Russell Square. Road connections to the M1 and M40 motorways give easy access.

Find out more at www.ucl.ac.uk

Clinical Operational Research Unit (CORU): <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/operational-research>

Department of Applied Health Research: <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/dahr>

Research Associate, Clinical Operational Research Unit

Salary on UCL Grade 7 (inclusive of London allowance) Point 29 - 34
£32,375 per annum - £37,057 per annum

Job Description

Applications are invited for a full-time Postdoctoral Research Associate to work in the UCL Clinical Operational Research Unit (CORU).

Specifically, the responsibilities of the new Research Associate will include:

Research

- Contributing to the development of mathematical and simulation models and computer software
- Leading the collation and analysis of data relevant to individual projects
- Contributing to the preparation of research articles for publication
- Communicating effectively with collaborators from a range of disciplines

Teaching

- Contributing to teaching one postgraduate level course per year
- Helping to write and mark the associated exam
- Carrying out duties of 2nd examiner

Management and Administration

- Attend Examiners' and Staff Meetings
- Complying with institutional and departmental policies on Fire and Health & Safety Regulations, Equal Opportunities, and other matters
- Performing duties as required by the Director of CORU
- As duties and responsibilities change, the job description will be reviewed and amended in consultation with the postholder

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Person Specification

Key to means of assessment: **CV** & covering letter / **Interview** process

	Necessity	Means of assessment
Skills required		
A high level of mathematical / analytical ability	Essential	CV / Int
Excellent communication skills in both written and oral English	Essential	CV / Int
Good computing skills	Essential	CV / Int
Computer programming skills	Essential	CV
Excellent attention to detail	Essential	CV / Int
Knowledge Base		
Knowledge of operational research techniques	Desirable	CV / Int
Knowledge of standard software packages such as Microsoft Office	Essential	CV / Int
Qualifications and Experience		
Good first degree (minimum 2.1 or equivalent) in a subject with a large amount of mathematical content or equivalent career experience	Essential	CV*
PhD in a subject with a large amount of mathematical content or equivalent career experience	Essential	CV*
Experience of conducting successful research related to health or health care	Desirable	CV
Experience of programming in Visual Basic or a similar language	Desirable	CV
Experience of using a statistical package such as STATA or SPSS	Desirable	CV
Personal Attributes		
Willingness and flexibility to work in close collaboration with Dept. of Health officials and clinicians and others in the Health Service	Essential	CV / Int
Excellent team-working skills	Essential	CV / Int
Ability to remain motivated and take initiative in the face of uncertainty about work programme and to manage shifting priorities	Essential	CV / Int
Willingness to become expert in standard software tools used within CORU (for example VBA in MS Excel)	Essential	CV / Int

* confirmed prior to appointment by certificate

UCL Equal Opportunities Policy

The equal opportunity policy of UCL is that, in the recruitment, selection, education and assessment of students, and in the recruitment, selection, training, appraisal, development and promotion of staff, the only consideration must be that the individual meets, or is likely to meet the requirements of the programme or course or post.

The requirements being met, no student or employee will be discriminated against on the basis of their sex, race, colour, ethnic origin, nationality (within current legislation), disability, sexual orientation, marital status, caring or parental responsibilities, age, or beliefs on matters such as religion and politics.

UCL is committed to provide a learning, working and social environment in which the rights and dignity of all its members are respected, and which is free from discrimination, prejudice, intimidation and all forms of harassment including bullying.

This Policy means that all students and employees of UCL have the right to study or work in an environment free from discrimination, prejudice and all forms of harassment or bullying.

UCL is committed to a programme of action to ensure that its policy is implemented and monitored at an organisational and individual level.