

## **Research Assistant / Research Fellow – transparency training pilot study**

**Employer name:** Office of the Vice-Provost (Research)

**UCL Job title:** Research Assistant / Research Fellow

**Contract type:** Casual (as-and-when), internal (UCL) candidates only

**Grade:** 6b (£16.57 - £17.95 per hour inclusive of London Allowance) or Grade 7 (£18.93-22.87 per hour inclusive of London Allowance)

**Duration:** 2-3 working days per week, for 3-4 months

**Working hours:** Flexible

**Location:** Flexible

**Deadline:** 08 February 2021

### **Role:**

UCL's Office of the Vice-Provost for Research (OVPR) is seeking a postgraduate researcher (already based at UCL) to support the design and implementation of a pilot study to roll out and evaluate the impact of UCL's new online training course on transparency and reproducibility in research and a badge initiative, as part of a randomised trial. The successful applicant will be involved in designing the details of the project.

This role will support UCL's work to promote transparency and reproducibility in research. The researcher will play a key role in advancing our understanding of the value of online training and badge initiatives, and more broadly of what works to promote transparency and reproducibility in research.

### **Context:**

At UCL we have been taking steps to push forward the transparency and reproducibility agenda. Following a town hall meeting in April 2019, we developed the UCL [Statement on Transparency in Research](#), which sets out the steps we encourage researchers at UCL to take in order to make their research transparent and reproducible.

The content of this statement has been adapted to create an online training course on transparency and reproducibility in research, which aims to raise awareness of transparent and reproducible research practices and their importance. It consists of:

- Main training course: an animated, 25 minute video containing the main training content, based on the Statement on Transparency, as well as a number of dilemma scenarios
- Talks given by role models: both ECRs and leading academics in the field, including Prof Brian Nosek, Executive Director of the Center for Open Science, and Prof Marcus Munafò, who leads the UK Reproducibility Network (c.10 mins each, recorded for the training)

We are now looking to roll out this online training course in a pilot study involving research students and ECRs. At present there is variable awareness among researchers of the importance of research transparency, and a lack of incentives in the research system. This study will seek to tackle both of these factors by piloting:

1. The UCL online training course on transparency and reproducibility in research
2. A research transparency badge to recognise commitment of individuals, who can use the badge if they complete the training course and commit to the principles in the UCL Statement on Transparency.

The transparency badge idea is inspired by [open science badges](#) for publications, used in over 60 journals.

**The role will involve:**

- Study design, including devising participant surveys and sample size estimation
- Registering the study with the UCL Data Protection Office
- Developing and submitting a research ethics application
- Devising the participant consent form
- Pre-registering the study plans
- Communication with and randomisation of participants
- Monitoring course completion and badge use

**Requirements of the role:**

- Ability to work in the UK
- Availability to work in February-April 2020
- Familiarity with and interest in open science, transparent and reproducible research practices
- Good understanding of principles relating to randomised trials
- Experience of research design and running research studies
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- High levels of attention to detail, initiative, efficiency and organisation
- Familiarity with behaviour change (desirable)

**Further information:**

There is flexibility around exactly when the hours are worked; the precise scheduling of hours can be negotiated.

**How to apply:**

A full CV is not required. To apply, or if you have any questions, email Grace Gottlieb, OVPR Research Strategy and Policy Officer, ([g.gottlieb@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:g.gottlieb@ucl.ac.uk)) with "Research Assistant / Research Fellow position" in the email subject field. In your application, include the below information:

- a description (no more than 500 words) within the email on why you are suited to the task (please refer to the above criteria) and any areas of expertise or experience you bring;
- your status within UCL;
- your availability in the coming months;
- contact details (email and phone number);
- whether you are on a Tier 4 Student visa (<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/iss/immigration-visa/tier-4-responsibilities>).

The deadline for applications is **8 February 2021**.