

THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER
PARTICULARS OF APPOINTMENT
FACULTY OF BIOLOGY, MEDICINE & HEALTH
SCHOOL OF MEDICAL SCIENCES
DIVISION OF DENTISTRY
RESEARCH ASSOCIATE IN HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH
VACANCY REF: BMH-029475

Salary:	Grade 6, £37,694 to £41,064 per annum, depending on relevant experience
Hours:	1 FTE
Duration:	Fixed term available from 1 September 2025 until 31 July 2026
Location:	Oxford Road, Manchester

Enquiries about the vacancy, shortlisting and interviews:

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Background

Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health

The University of Manchester is the largest single-site university in the UK with around 38,000 students and more than 11,000 staff. We aim to become one of the top 25 research universities in the world by 2020 and are committed to delivering an outstanding teaching and learning experience; contributing to the social and economic success of local, national and international communities; producing the highest calibre graduates; and developing our staff to be amongst the very best of their peers.

To achieve our ambitious goals we aim to attract and retain the very best people to work across a range of academic disciplines and support functions.

The Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health (FBMH)

The Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health was created on 1 August 2016 when the Faculty of Life Sciences and the Faculty of Medical and Human Sciences were brought together in a new, integrated structure to deliver a truly translational approach to the life sciences, ensuring smooth research pathways - from pure discovery science through to clinical application and patient care.

With a total annual income of over £300 million, and over 3,000 members of staff, the new Faculty is comparable in size to a medium-sized UK university. Thirty undergraduate and 90 postgraduate programmes will offer our 11,000 students opportunities to develop the skills and knowledge they need for a successful career.

The Faculty's matrix structure facilitates interdisciplinary working and enables us to learn from each other and share best practice; and our eight, strategic Research Domains help to articulate our research strengths, drive large-scale, collaborative research activities and strengthen relationships with our research and healthcare partners.

The integration of discovery biology, clinical application and patient care within a single Faculty, particularly in a region with notable health inequality, provides us with a real opportunity to have a very significant and positive impact on people's lives.

Our strategic partnerships

The new Faculty inherits a number of key strategic partnerships that underpin its ambitions to develop ground-breaking research.

Working alongside six local NHS Trusts, the Faculty is a key member of the [Manchester Academic Health Science Centre \(MAHSC\)](#) - a federation of equal partners that unites leading healthcare providers with world-class academics and researchers. It aims to be a global centre for the delivery of applied health research and education and provide leadership for our local and regional health systems.

It also plays a leading role in [Health Innovation Manchester \(HInM\)](#), which was launched in September 2015, as part of the UK Government's decision to devolve health and social care responsibilities to Greater Manchester. HInM offers a unique opportunity to bring together health and social care, academic and life science related business resources across the region to deliver an innovative health ecosystem that can help accelerate innovation into our local health and social care systems, enhance our global scientific standing and act as a magnet for inward investment.

Key partnerships in the charitable sector include Cancer Research UK; Diabetes UK; and the Wellcome Trust; and the Faculty will also has research and funding links to a number of commercial organisations including Unilever, AstraZeneca, GlaxoSmithKline and Boots, who will help us to bring new drugs and products to the market.

Working for the University of Manchester

The University of Manchester strives to make our community a welcoming, caring and enthusiastic one, fuelling ambition with opportunities and support to help us all achieve our personal and professional goals.

Our diverse job opportunities include an attractive [benefits package](#) with family-friendly policies that provide for flexible working. We care deeply about career and personal development, offering a structured induction programme for new staff, an annual performance and development review, staff training for all career stages and mentoring opportunities to support your career development.

We have a genuine commitment to [equality of opportunity](#) for our staff and students, and are proud to employ a workforce that reflects the diverse community we serve.

As a global institution, situated at the heart of a lively, [culturally diverse city](#), we welcome applicants of all nationalities. To help international job applicants plan for life in the UK, we have put together some useful [information on passports and visas](#), travel to the UK, accommodation and a number of other practical considerations

Overall Purpose of the Job

The title of the post is Research Associate (Grade 6, 1.0 FTE). The point within the banding will depend on previous experience. The appointment is funded by the United Kingdom Research Institute (UKRI) Horizon Europe Guarantee funding stream. This funding has been secured by the University of Manchester's Affiliated Membership to the DELIVER Study, which has been funded under the Horizon funding stream of the European Union. The post is a fixed term duration until 31st July 2026. The UK based principal investigator for this study is Dr Matthew Byrne, with Dr Lucy O'Malley and Dr Wendy Thompson acting as Co-investigators. The principal investigator of the DELIVER study is Professor Stefan Listl (Radboud UMC/University Hospital Heidelberg).

The overarching aim of the research project is to evaluate patient engagement and feedback in the improvement of quality in the general dental practice setting. This will entail applied research reported to explore the use of patient reported experience and outcome measures, novel analysis of unstructured patient feedback and realist synthesis of the use of patient engagement apps. We are seeking to employ a researcher with a keen interest in Health Services research and the development and application of novel research methodologies.

The post holder will be expected to have strong stakeholder engagement and evidence synthesis skills, and experience in the conduct of primary and secondary research in health services research. An appreciation of qualitative methods is required, alongside interest in the development and application of methodologies for analysis of complex unstructured data.

Key Responsibilities, Accountabilities or Duties

- Develop research objectives and proposals for own or joint research, with the assistance of a mentor if required.
- Conduct individual and collaborative research projects.
- Write up research work for publication.
- Continually update knowledge and understanding in field or specialism.

- Translate knowledge of advances in the subject area into research activity.
- Deal with routine communication using a range of media.
- Communicate complex information, orally, in writing and electronically.
- Prepare proposals and applications to external bodies, e.g. for funding and contractual purposes.
- Communicate material of a specialist or highly technical nature.
- Liaise with colleagues and students.
- Build internal contacts and participate in internal networks for the exchange of information and to form relationships for future collaboration.
- Join external networks to share information and identify potential sources of funds.
- Manage own research and administrative activities, with guidance if required.
- Work with colleagues on joint projects, as required
- Collaborate with academic colleagues on areas of shared research interest.
- Attend and contribute to relevant meetings.
- Use new research techniques and methods.
- Use initiative and creativity to identify areas for research, develop new research methods and extend the research portfolio.
- Use creativity to analyse, interpret research data, and draw conclusions on the outcomes.
- Contribute to collaborative decision making with colleagues in areas of research.
- Use research resources, laboratories and workshops as appropriate.
- Plan and manage own research activity in collaboration with others.
- Balance with help the competing pressures of research and administrative demands and deadlines.
- Be aware of the risks in the work environment and their potential impact on their own work and that of others.

Person Specification

Essential

- Have, or be about to obtain, a relevant PhD (or equivalent)
- Specialist knowledge in the discipline of Health Services Research
- Experience in evidence synthesis
- Experience in qualitative methods
- Ability to develop and manage relationships with internal and external stakeholders
- Experience in research methods and techniques to work within established research programmes including evidence synthesis and qualitative research methodologies
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Excellent time management and organisational skills
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team
- Ability to liaise confidently and effectively with a range of individuals
- Flexible approach to dealing with research problems as they arise
- Willingness to learn and develop
- Ability to present in both written and oral publications

- Ability to meet deadlines
- Strong journal publication record.
- The ability to evaluate complex data
- Ability to contribute to broader management and administrative processes.
- Ability to assess and organise resources
- Understand equal opportunity issues as they may impact on areas of research content.
- Willingness to travel.

Preferred

- Demonstrable experience of primary research of randomized and non-randomised studies
- Knowledge of natural language processing methods
- Experience of writing guidance documents for clinicians
- Experience or knowledge of different health systems across Europe