

THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER
PARTICULARS OF APPOINTMENT
FACULTY OF BIOLOGY, MEDICINE & HEALTH
SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES
DIVISION OF HUMAN COMMUNICATION, HEARING & DEVELOPMENT
RESEARCH ASSISTANT (2 POSTS AVAILABLE)
VACANCY REF: BM&H-015778

Salary: Grade 5 £27,511 to £31,865 per annum pro rata (Depending on experience)

Hours: 2 x 0.5 FTE

Duration: Fixed term starting January 2021 until October 2021

Location: Oxford Road, Manchester

Enquiries about vacancy shortlisting and interviews:

Name: Dr. Siobhán Brennan

Email: siobhan.brennan@manchester.ac.uk

BACKGROUND

[Introduction to the University of Manchester and the 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

The Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health has an 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 Faculty is comparable in size to a medium-sized UK university. Thirty undergraduate and 90 postgraduate programmes 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 Faculty has established 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.

We also play 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 also has research and funding links to a number of commercial organisations including Unilever, AstraZeneca, GlaxoSmithKline and Boots, who 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:

People with intellectual disabilities and autistic people have long been identified as priority groups for whom healthcare needs to improve and are highlighted in the NHS Long Term Plan (2019). As for other areas of healthcare, reduced access to Audiology services for these populations has been reported.

The Audiology, Learning Disability and Autism Project (ALDAP) (<https://sites.manchester.ac.uk/aldap/>) is funded by Health Education England South Region Intellectual Disabilities Programme. This aim of this project is to explore issues affecting audiological care for people with intellectual disabilities and autistic people throughout the lifespan from the perspective of people with lived experience, their families and carers, Audiology professionals and pertinent members of multidisciplinary teams.

The objectives of the study include:

- Identify workforce challenges preventing people with a learning disability and autistic people from accessing and receiving effective audiological services
- Identify issues directly related with both good practice and barriers that are related to the use of the Accessible Information Standard (DCB1605 Accessible Information 2017) by the audiology workforce
- Pilot and evaluate interventions aimed at supporting the audiology workforce to increase access and provide improved audiology services for people who have a learning disability and autistic people
- Provide HEE with clear information about lessons learned and what next steps could be taken to roll this work out
- Demonstrate collaborative working with people who have a learning disability, autistic people, their families and carers throughout this project

The post will be based in the Manchester Centre for Audiology and Deafness (ManCAD) in the Ellen Wilkinson Building, Oxford Road, Manchester, however the majority of this work can be carried out remotely. Some travel to Kent, Surrey and Sussex is expected. This may involve overnight stays. The current pandemic may affect this part of the role and this travel will only proceed following full risk assessments and if the risks are acceptably low.

Key Responsibilities, Accountabilities or Duties:

- Be responsible for the day-to-day-management of some strands of the project, ensuring that milestones and deadlines are achieved and that work is completed on time.
- Observing all requirements relating to ethics and research governance procedures.
- Recruitment of participants.
- Collaborate with participants, carers and support organisations to facilitate focus groups.
- Taking informed consent from participants.
- Participate in qualitative and quantitative data collection and data analysis.
- Develop and critique resources to meet the Accessible Information Standard
- Participate in internal meetings and present data and updates to colleagues.
- Participate in Patient and Public Involvement/Engagement activities, including presenting information to patient panels; and developing research related activities for and actively participating in public engagement events.
- Write manuscripts resulting from this work for publications.
- Present findings at national and international meetings
- Undertake appropriate training and development activities.
- Any other duties appropriate to the grade and role of the person appointed.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Essential Knowledge, Skills and Experience:

- Ability to recruit and interact with research participants.
- Excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to communicate effectively at all levels.
- Excellent organisational skills and the ability to prioritise a variety of work activities in a busy environment and meet strict deadlines.
- Be able to organise own workload and work with minimal supervision.
- A high level of accuracy and attention to detail.
- Able to work as a member of a team and maintain good relationships.

Desirable:

- Experience of enhancing hearing professional-patient relationship
- Experience of working with people with intellectual disabilities
- Experience of working with autistic people
- Experience of working with children
- Experience of research governance and regulatory approvals.
- Experience of data collection through focus groups
- Experience/knowledge of issues around hearing loss
- Experience of quantitative, qualitative and mixed-method methodologies
- Understanding and training in Good Clinical Practice (GCP)