THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

PARTICULARS OF APPOINTMENT

FACULTY OF BIOLOGY, MEDICINE & HEALTH

SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES

RESEARCH FELLOW IN HEALTH ECONOMICS

VACANCY REF: BM&H-012669

Salary: Grade 7 £40,792 to £50,132 per annum

Hours: Full time

Duration: Fixed term starting 1 October 2018 to 31 March 2021

Location: Oxford Road, Manchester

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Enquiries about the vacancy, shortlisting and interviews:
Email : rachel.meacock@manchester.ac.uk

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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 among 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 was 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 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. Our 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.

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.

Division of Population Health, Health Services Research & Primary Care

The Division of Population Health, Health Services Research & Primary Care is one of six Divisions within the School of Health Sciences. The broad spectrum of internationally recognised expertise in the Division includes:

- health policy and practice evaluation and interventions;
- advanced methodological research in biostatistics and health economics;
- risk factors, variation in treatment response, clinical progression and outcomes in population health;
- epidemiological approaches to the analysis of biological samples and clinical data and to understanding inequalities in health;
- variations in care provision, exploiting the unique epidemiological database resources in drug misuse, trauma and occupational health.

Health economics is a key discipline underpinning the School's methodological research. There are currently 44 health economists in the Division, including 5 Professors, 2 Senior Lecturers, 2 Senior Research Fellows, 16 Research Fellows, 8 Research Associates, 3 Research Assistants and 8 full-time PhD students.

overall Purpose of the Job:

The postholder will join the team of economists focusing on research into health organisation and policy. The team has particular expertise in:

- Care organisation, delivery and integration
- Payment systems
- Determinants of health and health inequalities
- Labour supply and workforce planning

These topics are analysed through the development and application of econometric techniques and evaluation of large-scale healthcare reforms.

Ongoing projects include evaluations of health and social care devolution in Greater Manchester, integrated care models in England and Europe, and the NHS Diabetes Prevention Programme. We also have a range of projects involving analysis of the national GP Worklife Survey, primary care administrative datasets, and national longitudinal surveys.

Job details

This position is funded by a grant from the National Institute of Health Research (NIHR) to evaluate the national NHS Diabetes Prevention Programme.

You will be located within the Division of Population Health, Health Services Research & Primary Care, in the School of Health Sciences.

You will be line-managed by Dr Rachel Meacock, Senior Lecturer in Health Economics.

You will report to Dr Rachel Meacock, Senior Lecturer in Health Economics. Additional supervision will be provided by Prof Matt Sutton, Professor of Health Economics and the project Principal Investigator. You will also collaborate with a large multi-disciplinary team.

Description of the project

You will join a multi-disciplinary team of researchers at the University of Manchester performing a national evaluation of the NHS Diabetes Prevention Programme (NHS DPP).

The NHS DPP is a collaboration between NHS England, Public Health England and Diabetes UK and aims to prevent or delay onset of Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus in those at high risk across England.

The NHS DPP aims to identify those at high risk and refer them onto a behaviour change programme. The programme started in 2016. It will roll out to the whole country by 2020, with an expected 100,000 referrals available each year thereafter.

The overall aim of the research programme is to provide a comprehensive assessment of the implementation, delivery and outcomes of the NHS DPP. The evaluation will investigate the implementation of the NHS DPP across the country, access and quality, service delivery and fidelity, outcomes and long-term costs and benefits.

More details about the project is available here:

Key purpose of this post

The key purpose of this post is to undertake the econometric analysis of the costs and benefits of the diabetes prevention programme. This will involve sourcing and managing administrative data, and linking this with data from other work packages to assess the longer-term benefits of the NHS DPP in terms of improvements in mortality, quality of life, and reductions in healthcare service use. This will be achieved through applying a combination of micro-econometric, advanced programme evaluation and economic evaluation techniques.

Analysis of the costs and benefits of large-scale health care service and delivery programmes such as the NHS DPP is an emerging field. This project therefore offers an exciting opportunity to work on methodological developments in an area of increasing importance within the health economics discipline.

You will work in close collaboration with Dr Rachel Meacock, who is leading this work package, and Prof Matt Sutton, who is a Principal Investigator on the project.

Key Responsibilities, Accountabilities or Duties:

The responsibilities of the post are to:

- Obtain and link national administrative and survey datasets
- Analyse the linked data to model profiles of health-related quality of life and service utilisation over the lifecourse
- Calculate the additional costs of implementing and providing the NHS DPP
- Apply advanced micro-econometric and programme evaluation techniques to estimate the impacts of participating in the NHS DPP on health-related quality of life and health care resource utilisation
- Combine the various analyses to estimate the cost-effectiveness of the NHS DPP in both the short and long-term and compare these estimates to the existing literature
- Prepare and submit papers to peer-reviewed journals
- Participate in dissemination activities with academic and non-academic audiences
- Support future developments through contribution (as appropriate) to original research, high-quality teaching and wider University activities

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Essential Knowledge, Skills and Experience*:*

- Excellent undergraduate degree (or equivalent) in economics
- PhD (or equivalent) in economics or health economics
- Detailed understanding of micro-econometric techniques
- Experience of applying advanced techniques for non-experimental programme evaluation

- Experience of managing and analysing complex administrative data
- Experience of contributing to manuscripts for publication in peer-reviewed journals
- Excellent time-management and organisational skills
- Clear oral and written presentation skills
- Good interpersonal communication skills

Desirable skills and experience

- Understanding of methods for cost-effectiveness analysis
- Experience of using data from Hospital Episode Statistics and/or the Clinical Practice Research Datalink (CPRD)
- Broad knowledge of modern methods for applied health research