

RESOURCING/

JOB DESCRIPTION:

Professor of Care and Health Policy and Evaluation



| | |
|---|---|
| Ref Number: | SS1311 |
| Salary Scale: | Management and Professorial, starting from £63,287 per annum |
| Contract: | Ongoing AND Full-time |
| School/Department: | SSPSSR/Personal Social Services Research Unit (PSSRU) |
| Location: | University of Kent, Canterbury |
| Responsible to: | Professor Julien Forder, Director of PSSRU |
| Closing Date for applications: | 28th February 2018 |
| Interviews are expected to be held on: | 5th April 2018 |
| Expected start date: | As soon as possible |

The Role

We wish to appoint a Professor of Care and Health Policy and Evaluation to provide senior academic leadership to a multidisciplinary team in the evaluation of health and social care policy and practice. PSSRU carries out a range of research in this field and has a reputation for employing robust scientific methods, underpinned by theory. The research adopts a multi-disciplinary approach, taking perspectives from economics, psychology, social policy and sociology. Furthermore, a mix of methods is used. PSSRU is a pioneer in the use of quantitative methods in social care research but also readily draws on qualitative methods. We are looking for an outstanding health/social care researcher with broad interests and expertise in policy and applied research, including a good understanding of qualitative and quantitative methods, to build our capacity and lead a team of people working in applied research.

The post-holder is expected to make a significant contribution to the research activity of PSSRU. Initially, there is an opportunity to work on a number of existing PSSRU programmes but the expectation is that the post-holder will apply for research funding and develop their own portfolio of work, with support from the Unit and the University. We are a multidisciplinary team at PSSRU and well placed to conduct research using a range of methodologies across both health and care settings, using both primary and secondary data. Thus, it is expected that future funding will come from successful project proposals submitted to health-related

research councils (e.g. MRC, ESRC), as well as through collaboration with services and joint grant applications to the National Institute for Health Research and NIHR School for Social Care Research.

In line with the ongoing integration agenda, we anticipate future research to cut across both health and social care. As such, the post may eventually involve supporting clinical/practice leads as well as health and social care researchers. It is essential, therefore, that the successful candidate has strong management and leadership capabilities, together with excellent communication skills. The position is primarily on the research track, but opportunities to teach and supervise are possible if the successful post-holder is interested in doing so.

Key Accountabilities / Primary Responsibilities

- To develop and manage own high-quality independent research in line with the key research themes of PSSRU.
- To develop an internationally competitive research group in social care and health-related research with strong links to practice.
- To contribute to the development and strategic work of PSSRU
- To write bids for external funding for research and/or enterprise-related work.
- To promote PSSRU's scholarly activities by disseminating research findings widely, including journal articles, and supporting other staff.

Key Duties

- Manage and coordinate own programme of work.
- Undertake research, independently and collaboratively, and provide research support and academic leadership to colleagues
- Prepare applications for research funding from external grant-awarding bodies and/or consultancy from external funding sources
- Prepare articles of internationally excellent quality for submission to peer-reviewed academic journals
- Support dissemination and impact activities, including presentation of research and engagement with policy-makers and other stakeholders
- Play a leading role in the further development of health and social care research within PSSRU
- Undertake line management activities and contribute to the strategic management of PSSRU
- Assist with the main activities of PSSRU and contribute to the activities of School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research (SSPSSR), in which we are situated.
- Such other duties, commensurate with the grading of the post that may be assigned by the Director of PSSRU.

Health, Safety & Wellbeing Considerations

This role involves undertaking duties which include the Health, Safety and wellbeing issues outlined below. Please be aware of these, when considering your suitability for the role.

- Regular use of Display Screen Equipment

Internal & External Relationships

Internal: Academic and administrative colleagues; students; Head of School; Faculty; Internal University of Kent departments

External: Research funders; publishers and journals; conference organisers; Government departments (esp. Department of Health, NHS England); local authorities, CCGs, health and care providers; professional associations e.g. Skills for Care, the Health and Care Professions Council; external examiners; potential students.

Person Specification

The Person Specification details the necessary skills, qualifications, experience or other attributes needed to carry out the job. Please be aware that your application will be measured against the criteria published below.

Selection panels will be looking for clear evidence and examples in your application, or in your cover letter where applicable, which back-up any assertions you make in relation to each criterion.

| Qualifications / Training | Essential | Desirable | Assessed via* |
|---|-----------|-----------|---------------|
| First degree or equivalent in a relevant subject area | ✓ | | A |
| PhD in a relevant discipline or equivalent research experience. | ✓ | | A |

| Experience / Knowledge | Essential | Desirable | Assessed via* |
|--|-----------|-----------|---------------|
| Experience of writing high-quality publications | ✓ | | A, I |
| Successful track record of leading research grants | ✓ | | A, I |
| Evidence of distinguished and sustained research excellence. | ✓ | | A, I |
| Successful supervision of postgraduate research students | | ✓ | A, I |
| Experience of working with UK Government policy colleagues | | ✓ | A, I |
| Knowledge of UK health care systems and health care policy | ✓ | | A, I |
| Knowledge of the UK long-term care/social care systems | ✓ | | A, I |
| Experience in managing/mentoring of other staff | ✓ | | A, I |

| Skills / Abilities | Essential | Desirable | Assessed via* |
|--|-----------|-----------|---------------|
| Strong track record of publications in academic journals and reports for funders | ✓ | | A, I |
| Ability to use research to contribute to health and social care policy or practice | ✓ | | A, I |
| Ability to undertake quantitative and qualitative research | ✓ | | A, I |
| High level of ability to secure external funding (e.g. competitive research funding from NIHR, UK Research Councils or other external sources) | ✓ | | A, I |
| Excellent interpersonal, presentation and communication skills | ✓ | | I, T |
| Ability to lead teams/ successful leadership and management skills | ✓ | | A, I |
| Ability to supervise research activities of postgraduate students effectively | | ✓ | A, I |

| Additional Attributes | Essential | Desirable | Assessed via* |
|---|-----------|-----------|---------------|
| Evidence of, and a personal commitment to, developing excellence in research | ✓ | | A, I |
| Willingness and evidence of an ability to work productively and sustainably in a research environment | ✓ | | A, I |

***Criterion to be assessed via:**

A = application form or CV/cover letter

I = interview questions

T = test or presentation at interview

In order to be appointed at the rank of Professor, candidates must be able to demonstrate:

(i) the ability of the individual to make a contribution to the University of strategic importance; this might, for example, include significant leadership responsibilities at a senior level through the encouragement of research and/or pedagogy, the organisation and development of teaching, and/or the promotion of an innovation and enterprise activity;

and

(ii) an outstanding and sustained national (and in the case of research, international) contribution to the advancement of their subject, bringing distinction to themselves and the University.