

Research Associate in Systems Design/Human-Centred Design Research in Healthcare (Qualitative research)

*Data-driven, Machine learning-aided Stratification and Management of Multiple Long-term Conditions in Adults with Intellectual Disabilities - **DECODE***

Job Ref: REQ230975

As part of the University's ongoing commitment to redeployment, please note that this vacancy may be withdrawn at any stage of the recruitment process if a suitable redeployee is identified.

School/Department summary

The School of Design and Creative Arts (SDCA) is an internationally renowned school. The School has a strong, internationally recognised research community. Our research strengths are in the areas of human-centred design, digital design, design for future living and experience design. All of our research is underpinned by responsible design. Our world-leading research enables us to discover, explore and develop new ideas, concepts, methods, tools, services and products that contribute to a healthier, safer, more productive, sustainable and equitable world. Annually we attract over £4 million in funding from a wide variety of research councils, governments, charities and businesses enabling us deliver research projects that have real and lasting impact on the world around us.

Project Description

DECODE is a 30-month research project funded by the NIHR Artificial Intelligence for Multiple Long-Term Conditions (AIM) Programme. This project is led by Loughborough University (PI: Dr Gyuchan Thomas Jun, Reader in Socio-technical System Design) jointly with Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust (joint PI: Dr Satheesh Gangadharan, Consultant Psychiatrist). Overall, the project team consists of fifteen co-investigators with expertises in the field of intellectual disabilities, neuropsychiatry, epidemiology, health data science, machine learning, data visualisation, human factors, qualitative research and ethics from eight institutions.

The co-investigators include Dr Georgina Cosma (AI) and Dr Panos Balatsoukas (UX design) at Loughborough University, Dr Francesco Zaccardi (epidemiology), Dr Michelle O'Reilly (qualitative research) and Prof Kamlesh Khunti (primary care) at the University of Leicester, Ashley Akbari (data science) and Prof Simon Ellwood-Thompson (health informatics) at Swansea University, Dr Vasa Curcin (AI) at King's College London, Prof Rohit Shankar (neuropsychiatry) at University of Plymouth, Dr Reza Kiani (intellectual disabilities) at Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust, Dr Neil Sinclair (ethics) at University of Nottingham, Dr Chris Knifton (nursing) at De Montfort University, and Gillian Huddleston (PPI lead).

The aim of the DECODE project is to improve the health and wellbeing of people with intellectual disabilities (also known as learning disabilities) by developing actionable insights to support a model of effective care coordination using machine learning aided analysis of multiple long-term conditions in people with intellectual disabilities.

The researcher of this post will join a team of eight researchers with a broad range of expertises and be supported by a learning disabilities nurse and a speech/language therapist.

Job Description

Job Grade: Specialist and Supporting Academic Grade 6

FTE: 1 FTE or 0.8 FTE

Term: 12 months FTC or 18 months subject to further funding

Job Purpose

To conduct a participatory system/service design research with a board range of stakeholders including people with intellectual disabilities, carers, health and social care practitioners based on insights from machine learning-aided analysis of multiple long-term conditions (MLTCs).

Job Duties

- Conduct a narrative review of existing policies and programmes on care coordination for people with Intellectual Disabilities (ID).
- Conduct reflective semi-structured interviews with the following people: i) people with mild ID and MLTCs; ii) carers of people with severe and profound ID and MLTCs; iii) health and iv) social care professionals who are involved in care coordination of people with ID (up to 15 for each group or until saturation of concepts is reached, N=max 60).
- Work with our PPI core group to recruit representative participants
- Work with our PPI nurse and speech and language therapist
- Organise, plan and conduct five 0.5 day participatory development workshops with five stakeholder groups: i) people with mild ID; ii) carers of people with severe/profound ID; iii) health and social care professionals; iv) national level charities, commissioners and policymakers; v) healthcare digital technology innovators (10-12 participants for each workshop)
- Analyse the data outcomes from the interviews and workshops
- Support organising, planning and conducting a full day stakeholder workshop (World Café approach with 50-60 participants)
- Attend project meetings (online mostly/face-to-face if allowed and needed)
- Contribute to writing research papers suitable for publication in high quality academic journals and for presentation at specialist scientific conferences.
- Share knowledge with other team members
- Feedback to the DECODE team on progress, to decide next steps
- Collaborate effectively with other research associates, project coordinators and other project partners (especially with Dr Michelle O'Reilly on qualitative research and Dr Neil Sinclair on ethics)
- Support the NHS Ethics application process

Points To Note

The purpose of this job description is to indicate the general level of duties and responsibility of the post. The detailed duties may vary from time to time without changing the general character or level of responsibility entailed.

Special Conditions

All staff have a statutory responsibility to take reasonable care of themselves, others and the environment and to prevent harm by their acts or omissions. All staff are therefore required to adhere to the University's Health, Safety and Environmental Policy & Procedures.

All staff should hold a duty and commitment to observing the University's Equality & Diversity policy and procedures at all times. Duties must be carried out in accordance with relevant Equality & Diversity legislation and University policies/procedures.

Successful completion of probation will be dependent on attendance at the University's mandatory courses which include Respecting Diversity and, where appropriate, Recruitment and Selection.

Organisational Responsibility

Reports to: Dr Thomas Jun, Dr Satheesh and Prof Rohit Shankar

Person Specification

Your application will be reviewed with respect to meeting the essential and desirable criteria listed below. Your application will be reviewed against the essential and desirable criteria listed below. Applicants are strongly advised to explicitly state and evidence how they meet each of the essential (and desirable) criteria in their application. Stages of assessment are as follows:

- 1 – Application
- 2 – Presentation
- 3 – Interview

Essential Criteria

Area	Criteria	Stage
Experience	PhD (or near completion) in the related areas	1,3
	Background in systems/service design research in healthcare	1,2,3
	Research experience in qualitative research in healthcare	1,3
	Experience of conducting literature reviews	1,3
	Experience of running participatory design workshops	1,3
		1,3
Skills and abilities	Ability to undertake the duties and responsibilities of the post	1,3
	Excellent knowledge of qualitative research methods	1,2,3
	Excellent written and oral communication skills	1,3
	Self-motivated with ability to meet deadlines	3
	Excellent interpersonal, and organisational skills	3
	Ability to write project reports and make technical presentations	1,3
Training	Willingness to undertake appropriate further training and to adopt new procedures as and when required.	1
Qualifications	A good educational profile up to and including first degree and Masters in social science, design or human factors or related field.	1
Other	Commitment to observing the University's Equal Opportunities policy at all times.	1,3

Desirable Criteria

Area	Criteria	Stage
Experience	Authoring original work for academic journal papers, conference papers or technical reports	1,3
	Experience of conducting narrative literature review	1,3
	Experience of stakeholder engagement with vulnerable adults	1,3
Skills and abilities	Knowledge about how the NHS works	1,3
	Knowledge about intellectual disabilities	1,3
Qualifications	Completed or near-completed PhD (or equivalent experience) in subjects related to health systems/service design research	1

Conditions of Service

The position is full time and fixed term, subject to further funding. Salary will be on Specialist and Supporting Academic Grade 6, £33,966 - £44,263 per annum, at a starting salary to be confirmed on offer of appointment.

The appointment will be subject to the University's normal Terms and Conditions of Employment for Specialist and Supporting Academic, details of which can be found [here](#).

The University is committed to enabling staff to maintain a healthy work-home balance and has a number of family-friendly policies which are available at <http://www.lboro.ac.uk/services/hr/a-z/family-leave-policy-and-procedure---page.html>.

We also offer an on-campus nursery with subsidised places, subsidised places at local holiday clubs and a childcare voucher scheme (further details are available at: <http://www.lboro.ac.uk/services/hr/a-z/childcare-information---page.html>)

In addition, the University is supportive, wherever possible, of flexible working arrangements.

We also strive to create a culture that supports equality and celebrates diversity throughout the campus. The University holds a Bronze Athena SWAN award which recognises the importance of support for women at all stages of their academic career. For further information on Athena SWAN see <http://www.lboro.ac.uk/services/hr/athena-swan/>