

Job description

Post title and post number	Research Fellow in Bioethics/Philosophy - 49405
Organisation advertising Description	School of Health and Population Sciences College of Medical and Dental Sciences
Post number	49405
Full-time/Part-time	Full Time
Duration of post	Fixed term until 30 April 2015
Post is open to:	Internal candidates only
Grade	7
Salary	Starting salary £27,854 a year, in a range up to £36,298 a year, with potential progression to £38,522 a year.
Terms and conditions	Research and Analogous
Closing date	10 July 2013

Job summary

This post was created as a result of securing funds under the EU FP7 security call for collaborative research project SURVEILLE (Surveillance: Ethical Issues, Legal Limitations and Efficiency). In brief, SURVEILLE is a multidisciplinary project combining law, ethics, sociology and technology analysis is reviewing the impacts of different surveillance systems used to counter terrorism and serious crime, working with manufacturers and end-users. More information on the project can be found <http://www.surveille.eu/>. The details of the contribution of the University to this pan-European study can be found <http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/activity/mds/projects/HaPS/PCCS/MESH/SURVEILLE/index.aspx>. This post will support Heather Draper to conduct an evaluation of an ethics advisory service for technology developers and users that is being organised and run by Professor Tom Sorell (University of Warwick) for more information, see <http://surveilleadvisoryservice.eu/>.

The post-holder will be based in Medicine, Ethics, Society and History (MESH) <http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/activity/mds/projects/HaPS/PCCS/MESH/index.aspx> in the School of Health and Population Sciences, College of Medical and Dental Sciences. As such, the post-holder will work closely with, and be line-managed by, Heather Draper (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/staff/profiles/haps/PrimaryCareClinicalSciences/draper-heather.aspx>) and must be willing and able to contribute to the research effort in

MESH (including making applications for further funding, as well research outputs, typically articles in high impact peer review journals). Accordingly, we are looking for a candidate who is both competent to conduct the evaluation (using qualitatively analysed interviews) of the advisory service and able work in bioethics, as well as being willing to engage with some of the philosophical work required for SURVEILLE. We envisage that this person will have a first degree in philosophy or closely related area the social sciences or humanities and a postgraduate degree that includes relevant research methods. They should also have a PhD in an area related the Heather Draper's research interests.

Main duties

To develop research objectives and protocol for the evaluation of the Ethical Advisory Service offered by SURVEILLE, with assistance of Heather Draper, and working with the other SURVEILLE research fellows and Professor Tom Sorell (University of Warwick).

To collect research data using literature reviews and research interviews

To analyse and interpret this data and contribute to the writing of the deliverable associated with the work

To contribute to writing bids for research funding with Heather Draper in MESH

To disseminate research findings for publication, research seminars etc

To supervise students on research related work and provide guidance to PhD students where appropriate to the discipline

To undertake management/administration arising from research activities including but not limited to organisation of meetings, record keeping, minutes of meetings, completion of time sheets and expenses forms, simple accounts and so forth

To contribute to Professor Draper's research-related activities and research-related administration

To contribute to teaching, assessment and teaching related administration in areas of competency as requested by and/or in consultation with Heather Draper but for not more than 5 hours per week on average

To present research outputs, including drafting academic publications or parts thereof, for example at seminars and as posters

To provide guidance, as required, to support staff and any students who may be assisting with the research

To deal with problems that may affect the achievement of research objectives and deadlines

Scope of the Role

Work within the SURVEILLE project to evaluate to the ethics advisory service research, assist Heather Draper as required on other projects and contribute to writing bids for future funding

Operate within applied ethics, bioethics and qualitative research

Analyse and interpret research findings and results

Planning and Organising

Contribute to the planning and organising of the research project

Co-ordinate own work with others to avoid conflict, delay or duplication of effort

Decision Making

Decide in consultation with Heather Draper as necessary, on the most appropriate way of undertaking the specified research activities

Decide in consultation with Heather Draper as appropriate how to analyse and interpret the data from the specified research activities

Decide in consultation with Heather Draper as appropriate what knowledge to draw on and how to apply it to develop new intellectual understanding

Contribute to deciding what information to include in a bid for research funding and how to present the bid to maximise the likelihood of securing the funding

Decide in collaboration with co-authors which aspects of the research findings to include in a presentation or a publication and how to convey the findings

Give guidance, support and advice to students on research related work including PhD students and decide the most appropriate method of providing this supervision.

Internal/External Relationships

Liaise with research staff and support staff on research-related matters

Liaise with external collaborators on the research, where appropriate

Give presentations and/or contribute to presentations at national and/or international conferences

Referee articles for peer-reviewed academic journals

Liaise with the relevant external research community via seminars and conferences

Person specification

First degree in philosophy or related area of social science and normally, a higher degree relevant to research area or equivalent qualifications. We need demonstrable ability to work comfortably in ethics and using qualitative research methods.

High level analytical capability

Ability to communicate complex information clearly

Fluency in ethics and qualitative research

Ability to assess resource requirements and use resources effectively

Understanding of and ability to contribute to broader management/administration processes

The organisation

The University of Birmingham is a thriving and dynamic institution that combines over a century of heritage with one of the most compelling and ambitious agendas in higher education. Ranked amongst the world's top 100 institutions, the University is structured to promote faster decision making and to enable it to capitalise on its academic range and financial strength. The University is organised into five academic colleges, with a University Executive Board, led by our Vice-Chancellor, Professor David Eastwood.

Central to our agenda is the development of the University's five-year strategic plan 'Shaping Our Future: Birmingham 2015', that builds upon an existing and ambitious programme of change, 'Sustainable Excellence', developed to establish Birmingham as a leading global university.

The strategic plan is based around five mutually supportive goals: enhancing research power; providing students with a distinctive, high-quality experience; sustaining and utilising financial strength; enhancing performance as an engaged university; and becoming the destination of choice amongst our peers. The confidence of the University's ambition is, in part, underpinned by one of the strongest financial positions in the UK HE sector. The University is currently forecasting a turnover of £460 million for the financial year 2011/2012 and carries significant cash surpluses with no borrowings. This is enabling it to invest in high-quality research and to enhance still further the educational experience for its students, as well as to continue to improve its estate and infrastructure, despite the prevailing economic conditions.

Over 90% of Birmingham's research was rated as world leading or of international quality in the 2008 UK Research Assessment Exercise (RAE). With world-leading activity across a range of subjects, it remains one of the UK's most broadly-based research-led universities.

The University's cultural and intellectual assets include the Shakespeare Institute at Stratford-upon-Avon, the Barber Institute of Fine Arts on campus and the Ironbridge Institute in Shropshire. The University also boasts the internationally renowned Lapworth Museum of Geology and Winterbourne House and Garden, a unique Edwardian heritage attraction that is home to over 6,000 plant species from around the world. In total the University's economic value to its region is £780 million.

Founded in 1900 and believed to be the UK's first redbrick university, Birmingham established a new model for higher education, breaking away from the Oxbridge tradition. Through the foresight of our founders we have inherited one of our greatest assets – our beautiful parkland campus, which is currently undergoing a £175 million enhancement programme that includes the new Bramall Music Building, a new sports centre containing the city's first 50m swimming pool and a proposed library

development to provide outstanding facilities for students and researchers alongside an open access cultural hub with facilities available to the public.

The University was founded through philanthropy and fundraising. This is just as important today. Birmingham's 'Circles of Influence' campaign has raised over £60 million since its launch in 2009 and continues to provide funding for five priority areas – Health and Lifestyle; Children and Young People; Heritage, Culture and Sport; Student Support; and Innovation and Immediate Impact.

With 28,000 students from 150 countries, the quality of the student experience offered at the University of Birmingham remains of paramount importance. The University is one of the leading members of the Russell Group in terms of the size of its graduate school and the quality of its student experience as shown by the National Student Survey. As well as high-quality teaching, students also enjoy an enriched experience through other activities such as sport, for which Birmingham is ranked second in the UK.

As Birmingham seeks to extend its global footprint further it is investing in its international strategy, having established overseas offices in India, China and Brussels. These new offices are developing existing contacts and forging new partnerships with academic colleagues and businesses across the Asia Pacific Region and into Australasia. Birmingham is also building strategic partnerships in North America (notably Chicago) and through its membership of Universitas 21.

The city of Birmingham

Birmingham is a major European centre and the second city of the United Kingdom. It is a city of business and ballet, canals and world-class concerts, jewellery and jazz, historical interest and cosmopolitan atmosphere. Birmingham is also the ideal base for exploring one of Britain's most fascinating regions for tourism, being within an hour's drive of Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwick, the Potteries, and the Cotswolds.

The new heart of Birmingham is symbolised by Symphony Hall, considered one of the greatest concert venues in the world. Symphony Hall forms part of the impressive International Convention Centre, which overlooks attractive canals at the hub of the UK's canal network. This setting is a very suitable venue for the CBSO, the globally respected symphony orchestra. At the magnificent Hippodrome Theatre is the internationally renowned Birmingham Royal Ballet, adding further cultural depth to the city. Apart from London's West End, Birmingham boasts the highest concentration of live theatre in the UK, including regular tours by the major opera companies.

The City Museum and Art Gallery houses the world's finest collection of Pre-Raphaelite paintings, alongside a major collection of Old Masters, Modern and Contemporary pictures. The Barber Institute of Fine Arts houses one of the best UK

university collections of Impressionist and Renaissance art. The restored Gas Hall Gallery has international touring exhibitions, while the Halcyon and Ikon galleries feature innovative contemporary works. National landmark sites abound, including the National Indoor Arena, the National Exhibition Centre, National Motorcycle Museum, National Car Heritage Museum and the National Sealife Centre.

The iconic Bullring Centre is the largest dedicated shopping facility in Europe. Sports and recreation are well served; the city offers international Test cricket, top-flight football, International Championship golf and top-class rugby. The International Convention Centre and National Indoor Arena have spawned a whole new Downtown area at the centre of the city. The National Exhibition Centre, on the outskirts to the city, remains one of the largest exhibition facilities in Europe.

Birmingham is at the crossroads of the UK's motorways. From Birmingham International Airport, more than a dozen different airlines operate scheduled services to 60 destinations worldwide. The University is the only mainland UK university to have its own railway station, while 50 million passengers a year use Birmingham New Street Station, which will be at the centre of the proposed high speed rail network. London is 90 minutes away by shuttle service, with trains every 20 minutes until the evening. There is a high standard of all types of private accommodation, with high-quality affordable family housing in several attractive residential suburbs. Public parks and large domestic gardens are a special feature of this greenest of European cities. Quality public and private schools are widely available, with several consistently rated in the top 10 on examination performance in annual league tables of England and Wales

The College of Medical and Dental Sciences

The University's structure is one of Colleges and Schools, and the College of Medical and Dental Sciences contains five Schools that cover the whole range of pre-clinical and clinical disciplines:

- School of Cancer Sciences
- School of Clinical and Experimental Medicine
- School of Dentistry
- School of Health and Population Sciences
- School of Immunity and Infection

The principal base of the College lies immediately between the main campus of the University and the new Queen Elizabeth Hospital, University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust. Other key NHS Trust buildings are also on the same campus including Birmingham Women's Hospital and The Barberry (Psychiatric) Hospital.

Research

The College of Medical and Dental Sciences is the largest of the University's five Colleges and, with over 800 researchers and in excess of £66M research funding per year, it represents a major international centre for biomedical research.

Our overall research objective is to develop and promote excellence in basic and clinical science with an ultimate goal of delivering improvements in human health. We take pride in a truly translational pipeline, delivering cutting edge clinical trials and patient studies, underpinned by cell and molecular biology research on both model organisms and humans.

Strategically, our research encompasses seven major internationally-renowned research domains:

- Cancer
- Genetics and Development
- Health and Population Sciences
- Cardiovascular, Respiratory and Neurological Sciences
- Endocrinology and Metabolism
- Dentistry
- Immunity and Infection

Importantly, each domain is allied to a range of clinical specialties through which the College links its basic research to translational endpoints.

We have great pride in our interactions with local NHS environment, most obviously exemplified through 'Birmingham Health Partners', an exciting collaborative platform between the University and the University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust (UHBFT) that will enable rapid movement from laboratory discovery to patient benefit, fostering new therapeutic and healthcare innovations by creating a truly integrated environment for researchers and clinicians.

Education

Each year the College trains 374 medical students including the Graduate Entry course (105 medical students are able to intercalate on a choice of programmes after the second, third or fourth year of their course), 75 dental students, 21 biomedical materials science students, 96 medical science students, 104 nursing students.

2013 also sees the introduction of a new undergraduate Pharmacy programme that will initially recruit 70 students per year. Medical student teaching takes place at all hospitals in Birmingham, but has recently expanded into many of the hospitals in the Black Country.

There are also approximately 650 postgraduate taught students and 550 research students in the College, managed by a cross-College Graduate School. The College has excellent library and reference facilities including the newly refurbished Barnes library and Doug Ellis Learning Hub.

Facilities

The College has encompassed some major developments, expansion and improvement to its facilities, education delivery and research activity in recent years. This includes a £35m Institute of Biomedical Research, a state-of-the-art £11.8m [Wolfson Centre for Medical Education](#) and a prosectorium facility for anatomy teaching incorporating 10 ventilated tables and high tech AV teaching aids.

The College has also created a new £1m phantom head teaching laboratory facility within the School of Dentistry. The College also launched the Health Research Bus, a mobile clinical research facility funded via Birmingham Science City via Advantage West Midlands. This was the first of its kind and a great development for clinical research in the College.

Among the most recent investments is refurbishment of the Medical School building foyer and Barnes library providing impressive visitor and student services facilities. In 2012 the College developed the state-of-the-art Advanced Therapies Facility which includes a new purpose built HTA-compliant biorepository (Human Biomaterials Resource Centre), cell and gene therapy pharmacy, and commercial spin out laboratory. Alongside these developments, the [Wellcome Trust Clinical Research Facility \(WT-CRF\)](#) received the largest award renewal in the UK of £12.8 million from the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) to support its activity and to strengthen its current expansion.

The collaboratively-funded NIHR Centre for Surgical Reconstruction and Microbiology was developed in 2011, which combines clinical practice in the battlefield and innovation in medical research to benefit all trauma patients.

In 2012, the College secured high quality laboratory and clinical research facilities within the new University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust (UHBFT) Queen Elizabeth Hospital, for Translational Inflammation Research and will support the newly awarded Medical Research Council (MRC) Arthritis Research UK (ARUK) Centre in Musculoskeletal Ageing.

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In 2012 government funding was also announced for the development of an Institute of Translational Medicine in Birmingham in collaboration with UHBFT, bringing Birmingham into the forefront of international translational medicine research.