

NIHR ARC London Postdoctoral Researcher (Grade 8)

The role

The NIHR London Applied Research Collaboration (ARC) is seeking to appoint a NIHR ARC Postdoctoral Researcher (0.8 FTE, fixed-term) to join the Research Inclusion team, led by Professor Tushna Vandrevalla at Kingston University. The post is an NIHR Career Development Award, with an appointment from 1 December 2026 to 31 March 2031.

NIHR ARCs bring together universities, NHS organisations, local authorities, health and care providers, voluntary and community organisations, and the public to deliver applied health and social care research that improves health and social care services and outcomes.

The ARC London Research Inclusion theme aims to strengthen inclusive research practices, address structural barriers to participation and ensure that research better reflects and benefits London's diverse and underserved populations. Working collaboratively with academic, NHS, local authority, VCSE and community partners across London, the theme seeks to embed inclusive approaches throughout the research lifecycle.

Based within Kingston University's School of Nursing, Allied and Public Health, in the Faculty of Health, Science, Social Care and Education, you will play a leading role in delivering Research Inclusion projects and initiatives. You will develop and evaluate approaches to engaging underserved populations, generate evidence to inform inclusive research practice and translate findings into practical resources, guidance and approaches that can be adopted more widely.

You will also contribute to building a strong Research Inclusion network across London, supporting training and capacity-building, and developing the skills and confidence of researchers and research teams to embed inclusive practices. Responsibilities will include producing academic and applied research outputs, developing toolkits and guidance, contributing to conferences and knowledge mobilisation activities, and supporting future research and funding proposals.

This is an excellent opportunity for an ambitious postdoctoral researcher to develop an interdisciplinary research profile and leadership skills within a major NIHR-funded programme, working in a collaborative research environment with strong links to communities, policy and practice.

• **What is available through the award?**

Our ARC London Career Development Award holders will have regular networking opportunities and be members of the NIHR Academy ([benefits of academy membership](#))

From April 2027 there will be an annual competition for award holders to apply to the ARC London Postdoctoral Award holders' Training and Development support funds for activities such as:

- expanding networks and forming new collaborations
- training courses

- training in or development of skills in research inclusion
- knowledge mobilisation
- implementation science
- any other development of skills or experience which would benefit future applications and longer-term research or practitioner academic career plans

[PPIE support funds](#) will be available from the NIHR Research Support Service. PPIE training, advice and support will be available from the ARC London PPIE team.

The ARC London Research Capacity Development team will support awardees to produce a Personal Development Plan matched to the Vitae 2025 framework, facilitate a postdoctoral peer mentorship group, using an action learning set approach as well as the opportunity to join our Research Leadership Academy and Researcher networks.

Alignment with NIHR Strategic need

The proposed award aligns strongly with NIHR strategic priorities through delivering impactful research addressing an important health and care challenge, embedding inclusive research practices and meaningful public involvement throughout the project, developing innovative methodological and interdisciplinary approaches, and strengthening both individual and organisational research capacity. The programme will generate evidence with clear potential to improve patient outcomes, inform service delivery and contribute to reducing health inequalities while supporting the applicant towards becoming an independent research leader.

Research Inclusion statement

NIHR are committed to equality, diversity and inclusion in everything we do. Diverse people and communities shape our research, and we strive to make opportunities to participate in research an integral part of everyone's experience of health and social care services. We develop researchers from multiple disciplines, specialisms, geographies and backgrounds, and work to address barriers to career progression arising from characteristics such as sex, race or disability (NIHR Research Inclusion Strategy 2022).

The person

You will normally hold a PhD in a relevant discipline or have submitted your thesis for examination by the time of application and expect it to be awarded before taking up the post. You will have a strong track record in applied health or social care research. You will have experience and/or a strong interest in research inclusion, health inequalities and working with underserved populations, alongside the ability to design, undertake and manage high-quality research independently and collaboratively.

We particularly welcome candidates who are committed to making research more inclusive, relevant and accessible to the communities it seeks to serve. Experience of co-production, patient and public involvement and engagement (PPIE), participatory research, or community partnerships. You will be able to work effectively with diverse stakeholders, communicate findings to academic and non-academic audiences, and translate research into accessible, practical resources.

You will demonstrate strong research integrity, organisational and communication skills, and the ability to contribute to research proposals, publications and funding applications. The role would suit an ambitious researcher seeking to develop their research leadership while contributing to NIHR's commitment to inclusive research and reducing health inequalities.

Contact for enquiries and reasonable adjustments

For further details about the post and information on how to apply, including any reasonable adjustments required to the recruitment process, please contact Professor Tushna Vandrevalla at t.vandrevalla@kingston.ac.uk

We welcome applications from researchers from a range of disciplinary backgrounds.

Applicants are welcome to contact the ACD London RCD Lead Priscilla Harries p.harries@kingston.ac.uk to explore their suitability for these career development awards.

Links to further information

- [Opportunities for NIHR Academy Members supported in our Infrastructure and Capacity Building Structures](#)
- [NIHR RSS](#)