

Job Description

Title	Details
Job title	Network Research Manager
Department/Unit	School of Psychology & Clinical Language Sciences
Job Type	FTC; 1.0FTE- Year 1; 0.9FTE- Year 2; 0.8FTE Years 3 and 4; 0.7FTE- Year 5
Grade	Grade 6, 30
Accountable to	Line Manager
Accountable for	NIL
Vacancy reference	SRF54278
Additional Information	Due to the nature of the role and our commitment to safe guarding, this role requires a DBS.

Purpose

The Network Research Manager will play a central role in supporting, coordinating, and advancing the activities of Pain Research Reading (PRR), a highly interdisciplinary collaboration between the University of Reading and the Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust.

The postholder will enable the delivery of the network's strategic objectives, including:

- Working on developing new pain-specific funding/grant applications
- Supporting the development of junior trainees within PRR
- Delivering high-quality, cross-institutional research outputs
- Supporting the development of current and prospective impact case studies across the pain working group.
- Enhancing the visibility, coordination, and efficiency of pain-related outputs and research

This role is critical to the continued growth, sustainability, and impact of PRR, acting as a central point of coordination across multiple concurrent projects, stakeholders, and institutions.

The Network Research Manager will work closely with multiple central University teams, such as REIO, as well as the Impact, events and media teams. They will also work closely with central RBH groups, such as Research & Innovation, the Clinical Research Partnerships Manager, and clinics that are actively hosting or planning and funding prospective research studies.

Team Structure

The Network Research Manager will join the newly created Pain Management Working Group. They will join a team of nine academic members of staff, including two clinical/academic Professors, who also work as Consultants at the Royal Berkshire Hospital. This team will also include 10 PhD students, and a postdoctoral research assistant, supporting Pain Research Reading and the University's Agriculture, Food and Health Research Theme.

Main duties and responsibilities

Research Coordination and Delivery

- Coordinate and support multiple concurrent research projects across PRR, ensuring timely progression from set-up through to dissemination
- Support pain network-specific interests in study set-up processes, including writing ethics applications (HRA, UREC & SREC), preparing projects for the NHS review process and assisting with onboarding processes
- Work closely with University and NHS R&I teams to streamline approvals and reduce delays for PRR projects
- Contribute to data collection, management, analysis, and interpretation where required
- Support the preparation and submission of manuscripts to peer-reviewed journals

Grant Development and Research Income

- Work closely with REIO to identify relevant funding opportunities (e.g. NIHR, MRC, UKRI, charities, industry) suitable for the interests of PRR
- Support the development and coordination of grant applications across the network
- Contribute to drafting sections of funding applications, including methods, impact, and pathways to dissemination
- Track and manage timelines for multiple submissions across the group

Early Career Researcher (ECR) Development

- Provide structured support to trainees and early career researchers within PRR
- Facilitate mentorship activities, collaborative opportunities, and skills development for junior researchers across PRR and the pain management working group
- Support junior trainees in developing their own grant and funding applications
- Contribute to building a sustainable pipeline of independent researchers across PRR.

Impact and REF2029 Preparation

- Work closely with the central University of Reading Impact Support teams to develop and document pain-specific case studies for return in REF2029
- Coordinate evidence capture for impact (clinical, societal, and academic) across prospective, active and completed pain research projects
- Work with pain working group leads to ensure alignment with impact pathways and reporting requirements

Network Development and Strategic Coordination

- Provide a bridge facilitating working processes for the pain management working group, between the University and Royal Berkshire Hospital
- Facilitate communication across disciplines, departments, and institutions with the purposes of developing new collaborations for pain research
- Across all research environments, at University and hospital, support the development of shared processes, SOPs, and efficient workflows for pain research
- Organise and coordinate regular network meetings, lab meetings, and collaborative activities

Events, Outreach, and Dissemination

- Lead the organisation of PRR events, including annual conferences, workshops, and invited speaker sessions
- Support dissemination of research findings to academic, clinical, and public audiences
- Contribute to the development and maintenance of PRR's digital presence (e.g. website, social media)
- Support pain-network specific public and patient engagement activities, including seeking funding for, and organising, community scientific events

General

- Maintain accurate records of project activity, outputs, and KPIs
- Provide regular progress updates to the leadership team and stakeholders
- Undertake any other duties commensurate with the grade and purpose of the role

Supervision received

Regular supervision will be provided by Dr Amelia Hollywood and Dr Rich Harrison, with additional strategic input from senior members of PRR and collaborators at the Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust.

Supervision given

The postholder may provide guidance and supervision to junior researchers, students, and interns involved in PRR projects.

Contact

Dr Amelia Hollywood, Associate Professor, School of Pharmacy, University of Reading.
A.hollywood@reading.ac.uk

Terms and conditions

Five days per week will be expected (35 hours). Flexible working may be possible with prior agreement, and flexibility may particularly be required in relation to undertaking interviews or focus

groups with research participants, for example during evenings or weekends. Regular physical attendance at the University, as well as the Royal Berkshire Hospital will be a part of this role.

This document outlines the duties required for the time being of the post to indicate the level of responsibility. It is not a comprehensive or exhaustive list, and the line manager may vary duties from time to time which do not change the general character of the job, or the level of responsibility entailed.

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Please see more information here

[Disclosure and Barring Service](#)

Date assessed: 27th May 2026

Person Specification

Job Title	School/Department
Network Research Manager	Psychology and Clinical Language Sciences

Which stage these Criteria be assessed

A = Application

I = Interview

P = Presentation/Pre task/Other

Criteria	Essential	Desirable
Skills Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong organisational and project management skills across multiple workstreams (A) Experience of supporting research studies from set-up to dissemination (I) Excellent written communication skills (e.g. publications, grant applications) (A) Ability to work across interdisciplinary and cross-institutional teams (A & I) Strong interpersonal and stakeholder engagement skills Ability to manage competing priorities and meet deadlines (I) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Qualitative research design and analysis & manuscript writing experience of neuroscientific data (A) Analysis & manuscript writing experience of biological/phlebotomy data (A) Experience supporting grant applications (A & I) Experience in event organisation and dissemination (A) Familiarity with digital communications (websites, social media etc) (A & I) Experience acquiring and analysing brain imaging & phlebotomy data (A & I) Confident use of health behaviour change theory & behaviour change techniques (A)
Attainment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PhD in Psychology, Biology Medical or Health related subject (A) 	
Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding of health research processes and governance (I) Knowledge of NHS research systems (e.g. IRAS, HRA approvals) (I) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding of pain research or related clinical/scientific fields (A & I) Awareness of patient and public involvement (PPIE) (I)

Relevant Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience working within a research environment, with relevant experience in neuroimaging, phlebotomy, QST, reflexive thematic analysis, cell biology and/or molecular biology (A) • Experience working with NHS or clinical research environments (A & I) • Experience working within pain research, with relevant experience in chronic or acute pain, clinical health research, intervention development, patient interviews and/or qualitative analytical techniques (A) • Experience contributing to research outputs (e.g. reports, publications) (A) • Experience coordinating projects or teams (I) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience contributing to funding applications (A & I) • Experience supporting early career researchers (I)
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to self-monitor output and project progression to attain project targets on-time (I) • An up-to-date DBS is required (I) • Ability to frequently and reliably travel and work within different departments across the University and Royal Berkshire Hospital (A & I) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Previous experience of writing for academic publication (A) • Previous experience of writing for lay audiences (A & I) • Flexibility to support events and stakeholder engagement activities (I)

Completed By: Richard Harrison

Date: 27th May 2026