

Job Description

Research Fellow – Wellcome UK Social Media Restrictions	
Grade	7.1 – 7.4
Department	Manchester Institute of Education, School of Environment, Education, and Development, Faculty of Humanities
Overall Purpose	
<p>You will have the opportunity to work as a Research Fellow on a Wellcome-funded project to evaluate the impact of the upcoming UK social media restrictions on young people’s mental health and wellbeing. You will work alongside Dr Margarita Panayiotou, Professor Neil Humphrey, (the University of Manchester), Dr. Jo Hickman Dunne (the University of Cumbria), Praveetha Patalay (UCL), and Jessica Deighton (Anna Freud).</p> <p>The role of social media in young people’s mental health has been highly debated for more than a decade, and the introduction of UK social media restrictions presents an unprecedented policy change. You will have a unique opportunity to contribute to its evaluation, generating timely evidence on the impact of the restrictions and advancing our understanding of how they influence young people’s mental health. You will work with rich and innovative data (including ecological momentary assessment, interviews, and longitudinal cohort studies) from projects including #BeeWell, #So.Me and Growing Up in the 2020s.</p> <p>As a Research Fellow, you will play a key role in the management and delivery of the project, supporting junior colleagues and leading participant recruitment, data collection, analysis and dissemination. You will work collaboratively with the wider project team to ensure the successful delivery of the research and generate robust, policy-relevant evidence to inform future approaches to young people’s social media use and mental health.</p>	
About the Team	
<p>You will work alongside Dr Margarita Panayiotou, Professor Neil Humphrey, (the University of Manchester), Dr. Jo Hickman Dunne (the University of Cumbria), Praveetha Patalay (UCL), Jessica Deighton (Anna Freud), and other colleagues.</p> <p>You will be based in the SMiLE (Studying Mental Health in Life and Education) Research Centre, alongside a large team of colleagues focusing on conceptual research, methodological innovation and applied knowledge exchange in the field of mental health and wellbeing in life and education.</p>	
Key Accountabilities	
<p>The main responsibilities of the role include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinating participant recruitment and data collection for the ecological momentary assessment and interviews, with the support of other team members; Coordinating data management, with the support of other team members; 	

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- Developing study protocols;
- Performing qualitative and/or quantitative analyses along with other team members;
- Coordinating and preparing outputs relating to analyses along with other team members (including evidence briefings, peer-reviewed academic articles, blogs, infographics, etc.);
- Coordinating the project strands;
- Coordinating liaison with stakeholders and the steering committee to support the smooth running of the study;
- Managing junior staff;
- Leading other duties assigned by the project lead as required, in pursuit of project objectives.

Person Specification

Essential criteria:

- Holds a PhD in a relevant field (e.g. psychology, epidemiology, public health, economics, social sciences);
- Demonstrable skills in advanced quantitative analysis (e.g. causal inference, longitudinal, EMA data) **and/or** qualitative data analysis (e.g. thematic analysis);
- Demonstrable skills in the use of statistical software/programming language (e.g., R, Stata, MPlus) **and/or** qualitative software (e.g., NVivo);
- Experience with open science practices (e.g. co-production, open outputs, code and data);
- Track record of high-quality research outputs published in peer-reviewed journals (either as a lead author or co-author);
- Demonstrable experience of translating technical and complex findings into clear, policy-relevant narratives;
- Demonstrable experience with managing research projects or substantial project workstreams/strands;
- Demonstrable experience with managing/supervising and supporting staff;
- Understanding of information governance and data security processes and regulations.

Desirable

- Experience of working within, or in close partnership with, policy-making bodies, government departments, and/or non-governmental organizations;
- Experience of natural-experiment and/or quasi-experimental research, including causal inference approaches such as difference-in-differences, interrupted time-series or related designs.

Key Behaviours

One University: A 'One University' approach, whereby we break down silos and work collaboratively towards furthering the University's strategic goals, vision and values.

Freedom of Speech and Academic Freedom: Support the University's commitment to securing and actively promoting the importance of free speech and academic freedom within our community.

Service Excellence: Committed to prioritising service excellence and high performance to deliver great people-centred experiences.

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Agility: Demonstrate a commitment to agility and continuous improvement by embracing change, championing innovation, and being flexible and forward thinking to adapt.

Sustainability: A sustainable approach that safeguards the University of the future by championing environmental practices, advancing digital capability, and supporting financial stability and philanthropic initiatives.

Inclusion: Support the University's ambition to create an inclusive place to work where every person matters, demonstrating a commitment to non-discriminatory conduct and respect for others, and fostering a University where people feel deeply connected to each other, to Manchester, and to the wider world.

Social Responsibility: Promote and champion the University's social responsibility ambitions to advance social inclusion, prosperous communities, better health, and cultural engagement.

People Leadership: Demonstrates effective leadership by empowering, motivating, and developing teams to achieve high performance. Builds a collaborative and inclusive work environment and provides clear direction, support, and feedback.