

Position / Job Title:	Post Doctoral Research Assistant (RED ID 15405)
Ref:	835
Location/Building:	Bournemouth Gateway Building - Lansdowne Campus
Faculty/Professional Service:	Faculty of Health, Environment and Medical Science
Group/Section:	Health and Care
Duration if Temporary:	Fixed Term Until 30/09/2029
Normal Hours per Week:	30 hours
(Some flexibility will be required in order to ensure that key time scales and deadlines are met).	
Number of Annual Scheduled Hours:	0.8 FTE
Grade:	6
Accountable to:	Lee-Ann Fenge, Project PI
Special conditions:	Arts-based research experience an advantage

Job Purpose

The post holder will be employed by the Faculty of Health, Environment and Medical Science at Bournemouth University. This post will support the NIHR ARC Wessex Integrated Approaches to Health and Social Care (IHS) theme. The PDRA will undertake applied research within the flagship programme Dementia Care at Home and support the delivery of agile projects within the wider IHS theme with a particular focus on supporting carers and those awaiting a dementia diagnosis. The IHS flagship will develop, test and implement integrated, person-centred models of care that enable people with complex needs to live well at home and within their communities for longer. The flagship will focus on strengthening neighbourhood health and care systems, improving coordination across health, social care, local government and voluntary sectors, and reducing inequalities in access to support, with an initial emphasis on dementia care closer to home.

The NIHR Applied Health and Care Research Collaboration (ARC) Wessex is one of ten ARCs in England awarded £157 million over five years from April 2026 to deliver applied health and care research that improves patient outcomes, enhances service delivery, and supports sustainable health and social care systems. Our vision is to lead transformative applied health and care research, building on regional strengths while delivering scalable, inclusive solutions nationwide. Across our themes, Healthy Communities and Prevention, Mental Health, Living Well with Long-Term Conditions, Integrated Care, and Data and Technology, we aim to create care that is inclusive, community-based, preventative, digitally enabled, and equitable. We support the Government's ambition for a future-fit NHS, focusing on healthier lives, reduced inequalities, and resilient systems with a workforce ready to drive change.

The role will include working with key health and social care stakeholders across Wessex including carers, local authorities, primary care and the voluntary sector. You will be conscious of the relationship between research, policy and practice with the aim of transferring knowledge into integrated health and social care practice. You will promote evidence-based decisions to create impact and positive change and develop understanding of the

barriers and facilitators of achieving evidenced-based practice. Experience of using community arts-based methods to engage under-represented groups would be an advantage.

The PDRA will have the opportunity to build research skills, experience and networks, with appropriate guidance, support and supervision. The work will contribute to the IHS theme and/or ARC Wessex wider programmes of research.

Academy Member: As part of this role, you will have the opportunity to join the NIHR Academy if: The post fulfils at least 25% of your total working week AND A formal training and career development plan is developed and incorporated within the post, agreed with support from your line manager within three months of commencing. The benefits of being an NIHR Academy Member include access to bespoke events and professional development opportunities, access to the NIHR Academy Member newsletter which details opportunities such as events and webinars, opportunity to apply for the NIHR mentorship programme, leadership programme, and/or development scheme, and NIHR Learn which hold a variety of free training courses.

Research Inclusion Champion: Postholders will have the opportunity to be considered for a Research Champion role, which if selected will include protected time, training and mentoring.

Knowledge Mobilisation Champion: Postholders will have the opportunity to be considered for a Research Champion role, which if selected will include protected time, training and mentoring.

Main Responsibilities

- Develop and contribute to the applied research work of the IHS theme supporting delivery of the ARC Wessex programme.
- Develop rigorous and original research contributions that lead to the discovery of new knowledge, insight and/or understanding.
- Regularly produce and/or contribute to research outputs, establishing visibility and credibility among subject-relevant research communities, within and beyond the University.
- Contribute to research grant proposals strategically aligned to the IHS theme in ARC Wessex.
- Collaborate and network productively with colleagues in own and other departments, disciplines and/or organisations. Engage with a range of public groups, partners or organisations, as appropriate.
- Develop knowledge and understanding of research methodologies (e.g., arts-based methods, coproduction, analysis, interpretation, critical evaluation); select and apply these effectively.
- Contribute to the effective co-creation, sharing of and engagement with research and research findings by a range of audiences (e.g., academic peers, practitioners, policymakers, public), using a range of methods (e.g., peer-reviewed publications, conferences, public engagement, outreach, media releases).
- Ensure that research outputs are findable, accessible, interoperable and reproducible (FAIR) and, wherever possible, open access.
- Take opportunities to ensure research activities benefit educational practice.
- Contribute to the supervision of postgraduate students and/or research assistants.

Organisation Chart

The PI –Lee-Ann Fenge will have overall oversight of project delivery.

The PDRA will report to the PI and manage all day-to-day activities for successful completion of the project.

Contacts:

Internal: Research project team, technical and support staff within the university

External: Colleagues within ARC Wessex, carers, local authorities, voluntary sector, primary care, and wider national ARC system

Information Governance Responsibilities

Data User

- i. Comply with the associated data protection, information security, information management and information technology regulations, policies, processes and procedures.

Safeguarding and Regulated Activity

If the role involves engaging in regulated activity relevant to vulnerable groups including children and disabled adults, it is an [offence to apply for](#) and perform the role, if a person is bared from engaging in regulated activity. Further information is available in BU's [Safeguarding Policy](#) and Suitability Statement on the Recruitment and Employment of Ex-offenders.

Additional Information

The purpose of the job description is to indicate the general level of responsibility and location of the position. The duties may vary from time to time without changing their general character or level of responsibility.

BU is an equal opportunities employer which values a diverse workforce. The post holder must at all times carry out their responsibilities with due regard to the University's Dignity, Diversity and Equality Policy Statement.

Our highly skilled and creative workforce is comprised of individuals drawn from a broad cross section of the globe, and who reflect a variety of backgrounds, talents, perspectives and experiences to build our global learning community. Through fused activity, the post holder must have an understanding of and commitment to promoting a global outlook.

All employees have an obligation to be aware of the University's Sustainability Policy, Climate and Ecological Crisis Action Plan, Travel Plan and associated documents, and to ensure that they carry out their day-to-day activities in an environmentally responsible manner and inspire students to do the same.

October 2026

Position / Job Title: Post Doctoral Research Assistant	Faculty / Service: HEMS
Position No: TBC	Date: 27 August 2026
SELECTION CRITERIA	Essential / Desirable
Knowledge (including experience & qualifications)	
Expertise in integrated health and social care – with a doctoral qualification	E
Knowledge of the needs of unpaid carers and dementia support	E
Experience of working with the voluntary sector	E
Experience of previous arts-based research methodology	E
Experience of publishing research outputs	E
Experience of presenting research within and beyond academia	D
Experience in collaboration with researchers from other disciplines	D
Familiar with current developments in research and scholarship with ability to identify appropriate research options, methods and theoretical perspectives	D
Skills	
Ability to apply appropriate inclusive research methods including arts-based approaches	E
Excellent communication skills, both orally and in writing, and the ability to communicate research findings to different audiences.	E
Strong organisational skills	E
Strong writing abilities	E
Effective team working skills, including those required to work with colleagues across ARC Wessex.	E
Ability to reason accurately and quickly and handle complex situations.	E
Attributes	
Analytical	E
Collegiate	E
Commitment to high quality research	E
Initiative	E
High level of attention to detail	E
Motivated to succeed	E