

Further Particulars

(Overview, Role Detail, Person Specification, Application Process)

School of Health and Society

University Fellowship

Grade 8

(Ref: MPF4306)

Role title: University Fellow

Reports to: Appropriate Subject lead

Overview

University Fellowships are designed to provide talented early career researchers with the support required to develop into a leading research-active academic at the University of Salford.

The School of Health and Society is seeking to appoint up to seven Fellows, in areas of growth, who have a strong track record in research, and can demonstrate the potential to make a leading contribution to the University through furthering the research excellence and reputation of the School.

The University will support Fellows by providing dedicated mentoring support from established research leader/s, as well as a bespoke cohort based development programme. Fellows will be awarded a £30K start up grant to allow them to establish themselves and develop at pace (split over the first 2 years).

Appointments will be made on open-ended basis, and at the end of the 5 year period of the Fellowship, post holders will transfer into an academic role.

About the School

The University of Salford has a 55 year history of changing lives and making a difference, and the School of Health & Society is at the forefront of this.

Innovative, dynamic and bold, we are a vibrant multidisciplinary community whose ethos is to ensure our students have the best possible experience based on evidence-based practice and research informed teaching. We have research centres and graduate training schools that change lives, influence policy and improve personal outcomes.

We have substantial grant capture and we currently have 180 students being supervised for their doctoral studies who are part of a global community of learners coming from around the world to research, learn and inform our work. In the recent REF (the UK's system for assessing the quality of research in UK higher education institutions), the University of Salford has moved 22 places up the league table, and 88% of our research impact has been rated as outstanding or very considerable in terms of its reach and significance.

But... we don't rest on laurels and following the global pandemic we are even more committed to growing our work and our influence in all fields. We have recently appointed a Health Economist and will be appointing statisticians and data scientists to support an innovative new Public, Patient Involvement and Engagement (PPIE) programme, which will harness the voices and experiences of patients and the public and translate these into action and research.

From social media impact to health economy, from clinical research to policy development, the school is reaching for even more success and we need you!

Are you committed to making a difference? Do you want to work with the best? Can we help you make an impact and develop your career?

Areas

The School have identified a number of areas of growth where applications are invited:

Rehabilitation Technologies

With a strong background in biomedical- or mechanical- engineering you will join our thriving and friendly research group. We focus on the design and development of new rehabilitation technologies aimed at assisting functional movement, together with novel methods for their evaluation. Our research is supported by grants from NIHR, EPSRC, MRC and Innovate UK, and includes a novel device to improve the control of upper limb prostheses, more effective upper limb functional electrical stimulation systems to support post-stroke rehabilitation, the design of adjustable prosthetic sockets which may be easier to fit and more comfortable for the user, and the design of demonstrably safer walking aids. Our group has spun out a new company (BetRMedical) and produced patented designs. Granat also leads the £5.8 million EPSRC Centre for Doctoral Training in Prosthetics and Orthotics. In collaboration with Biomedical Engineers and clinical teams in Uganda, we are developing novel upper limb prosthetic devices, and strengthening local prosthetics services (with Professor Louise Ackers). We see the work at the intersection of rehabilitation technologies and global health as a key future area for our group, addressing the challenges identified in a recent landmark WHO report. An emerging focus is on how to deliver innovations in rehabilitation technologies while minimising the associated carbon footprint. You will be mentored by leading researchers Professors Laurence Kenney, David Howard, Malcolm Granat, and Dr Sibylle Thies, as well as clinical experts from our Prosthetics and Orthotics team. You will have access to a wide range of facilities including movement analysis labs, a new additive manufacturing lab, clinical prosthetics and orthotics workshops, as well as (virtual) links with a new rehabilitation centre in Fort Portal, Uganda.

Clinical Biomechanics

We are looking to recruit an experienced clinical biomechanist to undertake research within the Centre for Human Movement and Rehabilitation. You will work alongside, and be mentored by, leading established researchers, Prof Richard Jones, Prof Steve Preece, Dr Lee Herrington, Dr Carina Price and Dr Dan Parker. You will secure research funding and deliver world-leading clinical biomechanics research in an area which is aligned with knee biomechanics/injury, foot health, diabetes or digital health in biomechanics. Our current research portfolio includes work which is focused on developing new treatments for people with lower limb pain, such a biofeedback intervention and the use of footwear/insoles for the management of knee osteoarthritis. Other projects seek to explore biomechanical function in the lower limb in disease and sport and also to explore a range of themes related to foot health. We also have projects which are focused on integration of digital health into the assessment of the foot in diabetes and this work is typically delivered through collaboration with industry partners. Over recent years, we have attracted funding from various prestigious sources such as Versus Arthritis, EPSRC, NIHR, Great Foundations and Scholl. We also have strong collaborations with national and international experts, policy makers and local clinical groups ensuring that our research delivers real-world impact to people who suffer with foot and lower limb health disorders. Candidates will have a strong track record in biomechanics and expertise in experimental methods. We are particularly interested to receive applications from researchers with an Allied Health Professional background.

Measurement of Physical Behaviour

You will develop a programme of work as part of the Measurement of Physical Behaviour theme, which sits within the Centre for Human Movement and Rehabilitation. The theme aims to promote and facilitate the study of objective measurement and quantification of free-living physical behaviours and related constructs. Working alongside Dr Alex Clarke-Cornwell (Reader in Public Health Epidemiology) and Professor Malcolm Granat (Professor in Health and Rehabilitation Sciences), you will deliver world-leading research and attract funding across areas related to the measurement of physical behaviour. The focus could be on developing analysis techniques for the quantification of

free-living physical behaviours, evaluating the effectiveness of interventions, or investigating how physical behaviours affect our health. We have a strong research profile in the measurement of physical behaviour, and have attracted funding from NIHR, EPSRC, and the UKRI. Our current research includes a randomised controlled trial to investigate the effectiveness of an intervention to reduce sitting time in office workers, which has recently been published in the BMJ, the contribution of physical activity to commuting, and the development of event-based analysis techniques for the quantification of free-living physical behaviours. Malcolm Granat also leads the £5.8 million funded EPSRC Centre for Doctoral Training in Prosthetics and Orthotics. We collaborate with national and international experts, local stakeholders, and clinical groups to support this work, including the International Society for the Measurement of Physical Behaviour and the Prospective Physical Activity, Sitting and Sleep consortium.

Energy Social Science

We are seeking applications from social scientists who can develop work on energy and sustainability as sociological issues and dimensions of social policy.

You will have the opportunity to develop a programme of work in the School at the interface of energy. sustainability and social justice. The Sustainable Housing and Urban Studies Unit (SHUSU) leads the University's work on energy social science, with strong connections with other parts of the University, including Geography and Energy House Laboratories, and with national and international networks of academics and policymakers. The research environment reflects a commitment to high-quality research that is both academically rigorous and policy relevant. Our work has been funded by Horizon 2020, European Social Fund, Citizens Advice and Eaga Charitable Trust. You will work alongside Dr Graeme Sherriff and the SHUSU team within the broad field of energy social science, bringing sociological experience and expertise to bear on the human side of energy transitions and connecting with social policy to explore contemporary challenges. Possible foci for your research could include energy poverty in the context of the cost of living crisis; householder decision-making around, and experiences of home retrofit; the adoption of smart technologies and their impact upon energy practices; health and wellbeing impacts of energy-related issues in the home; the relationship between decarbonisation, climate change, and energy poverty. Candidates should have a general knowledge of, and willingness to connect with, the technical, architectural and spatial challenges relating to housing and energy.

Social Policy: Work, Welfare and Wellbeing

You will work alongside Dr Daiga Kamerade and Professor Lisa Scullion in the Inclusive Society Research Centre and Social Policy, Sociology and Criminology Subject Group, which has wellestablished research excellence in welfare, employment, unemployment and underemployment, social inclusion and wellbeing. The research environment is characterised by a commitment to cutting edge policy relevant research that leads to real world impact, co-produced with service users, professionals, and practitioners at international, national and local levels. Our current research portfolio includes projects focusing on underemployment, disability and voluntary work, the four-day working week, social security policy and practice and poverty. Our work has been funded by a range of funders including the Economic and Social Research Council, the Forces in Mind Trust, and various local authorities and third sector organisations. The Subject Group has made a sustained and significant contribution to REF, with the Unit of Assessment Social Policy and Social Work rated as 3* in REF2021, and case studies rated as 4* in REF2021 and REF2014. You will also have an opportunity to develop your academic career by contributing to research-informed teaching in this area.

Criminal Justice with Vulnerable Groups

We are seeking applications from candidates to develop a programme of work focused on vulnerable people in the criminal justice system. You will be joining a Criminal Justice Hub team with a strong track record of excellent research projects and publications that make a difference to policy and practice, finding solutions to challenging issues and supporting desistance. Our strong commitment to influencing reform in the criminal justice system is reflected in the recent rating of the impact of our research as "world-leading/internationally-excellent" (REF2021). Our recent work has been funded by

The Nuffield Foundation, Dawes Trust, the NHS, the Youth Justice Board, and the Big Lottery Fund. You will work alongside Professor Neal Hazel, with Professor Muzammil Ouraishi and the Criminal Justice Hub team, within our thriving Centre for Research in Inclusive Society and the Social Policy. Sociology and Criminology subject group. As well as benefiting from our excellent links with Criminal Justice Partners, you will be encouraged to engage with our researchers' international collaborations, which have seen us advise governments on prison reform, and write collaboratively with colleagues globally. The focus of your applied research could be within or across different elements of the criminal justice system (including policing, courts, prisons, probation, youth justice, and broader desistance support). Possible vulnerable groups on whose experiences your research could focus include children and young adults; parents in prison; those with care experience; and groups with protected characteristics (including gender, religion, and race).

Digital Social Science

You will develop a portfolio of work that is rooted in the social sciences regarding how people experience, or not, digital technologies on an everyday basis. You will join our thriving Inclusive Society Research Centre and the Social Policy, Sociology and Criminology Subject Group. The inclusive Society Research Centre includes staff who focus up digital social science from a number of perspectives including immersive technologies, digital sociology, digital methods, online relationships, digital leisure, pleasure and health, cryptocurrencies, and diversity online. Our research environment is inclusive with a commitment to supporting staff at all stages of their research careers and particularly early in their career. The team places significant emphasis upon quality. Staff were returned in the 2021 REF to submission Unit of assessment 34: Communication, Cultural and Media Studies, Library and Information Management where 82% of overall activity was rated as Word Class or Internationally Excellent. Work in the area of Digital Society was a key feature of this submission. You will also have an opportunity to develop your academic career by contributing to researchinformed teaching in this exciting area. Depending on the exact area that you specialise in, you will be mentored by one of the following leaders in the field: Dr Gaynor Bagnall, Professor Garry Crawford, Dr Nina Held, Professor Ben Light, Dr Joy Probyn, and Dr Tom Redshaw.

Digital Health

Digital transformation of health remains a priority for UK policy and strategy and provides opportunities for different ways of working, inclusivity and reducing health inequalities. Applicants to this area will have a strong track record in digital health and will be based within the Centre for Applied Health Research with the potential for collaborations across other University Research Centres. Working alongside well-established researchers (Dr Cristina Vasilica, Professor Alison Brettle, Professor Paula Ormandy, Professor Yeliz Prior and Dr Katy Szczepura), you will attract external funding and deliver world-leading research focused on the use of digital technology and longterm conditions. Your research will build on a strong track record of digital health innovation and longterm conditions at the University of Salford. You will join a group of researchers with expertise in long term conditions and digital health who work together to accelerate research and build capacity aligned to the University's digital and healthy living themes. The group comprises senior, mid and early career researchers and has attracted funding from a range of national and charitable funders, has generated successful 3*/4* REF2021 impact case studies and has leveraged HEIF monies for research centred around digital health applications for chronic kidney disease, breast cancer, neurology, diabetes, rheumatic diseases and health professional education. You will join this supportive environment to develop your career and further our ambitions and research in relation to digital health and education. Your research could use digital technologies to enable digital transformation to improve care by educating patients or clinicians.

Inclusion Health

You will have the opportunity to develop a programme of work around inclusion health within the School of Health and Society. This is a new and major area of focus area of development for the University, following increased recognition nationally and internationally inequities illuminated during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The work on inclusion health is located within the Health Equity and Health Inequalities theme area which straddles both the Centre for Applied Health Research and Inclusive Society Research Centre. This theme leads work around issues of health access and experiences of a variety of vulnerable groups and communities who live with health inequities. Current programmes of work include; access to healthcare and out of hospital discharge for people who are homeless, health access for Gypsy, Roma, Travellers, and people who live with mental illness. Our work has been funded by Department of Health and Social Care, Burdett Trust and the Arts and Humanities Research Council and we are also working with the European World Health Organisation around services for young people living with mental illness. You will have the opportunity to work with us on cultivating a multi-agency inclusion health Northern Hub and potential areas of foci within socially excluded groups include assessment and management of frailty in marginalised groups, seamless management of chronic healthcare across different care settings or impact of integrated care in addressing health inequity. However, there is scope for other project areas within the inclusion health remit.

You will work within an incredibly supportive team led by Professor Vanessa Heaslip and Professor Michelle Cornes who are both leaders in the field of health and social exclusion. You should have a good knowledge of health, heath inequity, discrimination and marginalisation of diverse groups and communities, but most importantly, you must be passionate and committed to ensuring health for all.

Future Health Technologies

You will be part of the Centre for Applied Health Research, identifying areas of opportunity within the field of health technology, and will work alongside Dr Katy Szczepura and Professor Louise Ackers. This is a broad area of research that could support many ongoing themes within the centre depending on your research interests. Medical imaging is currently leading the field in artificial intelligence for healthcare, new technology is constantly being developed and introduced, yet radiography staff report difficulties with these fast introductions, with a lack of appropriate support and preliminary involvement sited as a significant factor. Working with industrial leaders such as GEHealth, optimisation of the imaging chain from acquisition to AI, big data and robotics applications is a priority area, ensuring the workforce is technically fluent for the implementation of future technologies. Significant work has been developed to use novel imaging technologies to support healthcare in low to middle income countries in cervical screening. Artificial intelligence and novel handheld diagnostic devices are being developed and evaluated for use in lower/middle income countries to aid early detection and diagnosis. Engagement with industry and charities has led to significant impact from this work. The research will lead to co-creation of research-led education at all levels, across many disciplines, both locally and globally, identifying key areas of development needs in policy and practice. You will have a strong track record research related to health technologies, and will develop an innovative proposal on one of the following topics: 1. Technical fluency in the medical imaging workforce: or 2. The use of novel technologies in lower/middle income countries.

Affective Science

You will develop a programme of research related to environmental influences on health and wellbeing. You will be jointly based between the Directorate of Psychology within the School of Health and Society, and the School of Science, Engineering and Environment, and aligned with the Centre for Applied Health Research, the Social Prescribing Hub, the Salford Care and Urban Farm Hub and the Cognition Research Group. You will join a successful, multidisciplinary team with a proven track record of securing prestigious funding from UKRI, Horizon Europe, Wellcome Trust, British Science Association, Leverhulme Trust, and British Psychological Society, in addition to the submission of 3*/4* REF2021 impact case studies. You will be mentored by leading researchers Professor Michael Hardman and Dr Robert Bendall, with further support provided from the wider team including Dr Samantha Gregory and Dr Michael Lomas. Adopting innovative digital techniques including ecological momentary assessment and geolocation tracking, alongside a demonstrable commitment to open and reproducible science practices, your research will progress our understanding regarding the role that nature plays in improving mental health, leading to more effective targeted intervention. An important aspect of this will be understanding the cognitive mechanisms underpinning the benefits found. While it is believed that being in nature improves our mental wellbeing, including benefitting memory, attention, decision making and mood, we do not understand the cognitive mechanisms that underpin

this. Yet, understanding these mechanisms will allow evidence-based targeted interventions for individuals experiencing difficulties in their mental and cognitive health, across the lifespan, and across health-related needs.

Embracing and Supporting Neurodiversity: Challenges and Solutions

You will join a well-established research strength in neurodiversity research within the Centre for Applied Health Research. You will join a high performing team with a track record of funding from the Economic and Social Research Council, National Institute for Health and Care Research, Horizon Europe, Medical Research Council and various charities, as well as from Innovate UK and for work with industry partners including the BBC. You will be mentored by leading researchers in this area, Prof. Penny Cook, Dr Gemma Taylor and Prof. Clare Allely. We are the UK's most successful team for research into Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD), a condition caused by alcohol consumption in pregnancy which affects child development, with a focus on interventions to support persons affected by FASD. Within the autism spectrum disorder and the criminal justice research theme, our research portfolio seeks to understand how certain features of autism may provide the context of vulnerability to engaging in a range of offending behaviours (e.g., terroristic behaviours; sexual offending; homicide; cybercrime) and issues with current risk assessments for individuals with autism. Building on our strength in child development research, we are currently investigating the potential benefits of digital media for development of typically developing children and children with autism or FASD. You will have a strong track record in neurodiversity-related research, and will develop an innovative proposal on one of the following topics: 1. The impact of digital media use for neurodiverse children; 2. How certain features of autism and/or FASD provide the context of vulnerability in engaging in a wide range of offending behaviours; or 3. Interventions to improve the experience of individuals with FASD and/or autism in the criminal justice system.

Role Purpose

The University has embarked on a campaign to recruit 20 new University Fellows across our four Schools to build on the success of our REF results and grow our research portfolio and excellence.

Fellows will develop and lead distinctive strategic research, innovation and knowledge exchange activities aligned with the Innovation strategy of the School. Alongside research activity, Fellows will be expected to make a growing contribution over the duration of the Fellowship to the delivery of research-informed teaching in the School.

Key Accountabilities or Duties

The Fellows' initial focus will be on establishing their research careers, including the development of a research programme which complements existing research within the University, the production of high quality research outputs, applications for external research funding, and the development their careers. Fellows will be expected to make a growing contribution to the development and delivery of research-led teaching/training and academic leadership in their host School, particularly after the first two years.

Fellows will be required to plan and deliver their research independently, and to apply for and secure external research funding appropriate to the discipline. Fellows will develop the skills required to lead research, to supervise and train research students, and to teach undergraduates and postgraduates through agreed School duties.

Therefore, the main key accountabilities or duties across the whole lifetime of the University Fellowship will be:

Research

To undertake world-leading research and build a research programme and group.

- Undertake individual or collaborative research projects
- Identify external sources of funding and develop and contribute to funding bids research, knowledge transfer and engagement grant applications
- Promote graduate studies by contributing to the supervision of postgraduate research students
- Write and contribute to publications in peer reviewed academic journals and/or disseminate research findings using other appropriate media
- Make presentations at conferences or exhibit work in other appropriate events, participating in dissemination and engagement activities to contribute to knowledge base of area of expertise, maximise policy, media industrial or community impact of research
- Extend, transform and apply knowledge acquired from scholarship to learning, research and appropriate external activities
- Contribute to impact generation, including but not limited to outreach, public engagement and industry / stakeholder policy change

Teaching and Learning

At year 3, an increasing contribution to teaching/training programmes (UG and/or PGT).

- Design research informed teaching material and deliver either across a range of modules or within a subject area
- Supervise student projects, including, where appropriate, PGT, field trips and placements
- Identify areas where current provision is in need of revision or enhancement
- Contribute to the planning, design and development of course and curriculum objectives and material, in collaboration with Student Information Directorate to ensure accuracy of central databases
- Set, mark and assess work and examinations and provide feedback to students
- Act as personal tutor to a group of students

Leadership, Management and Engagement

- Take a lead in own area of expertise, act as mentor for less experienced colleagues
- To engage with and participate in the University's PDR process as reviewer and/or reviewee, as appropriate
- Lead and co-ordinate the work of other staff to ensure projects are delivered to the standards required
- Co-ordinate colleagues to ensure student needs and expectations are met
- Plan, co-ordinate and implement research programmes or engagement projects; organisation of external activities such as student projects, field trips and industrial placements; manage or monitor research or engagement budgets and ensure effective use of resource; organise administrative duties
- Support colleagues with less experience and advise on personal development; train/advise on own area of expertise where appropriate; coach and support colleagues in developing research
- Collaborate with external organisations such as industry, public sector, charity and local community groups

This role detail is a guide to the work you will initially be required to undertake. It may be changed from time to time to meet changing circumstances. It does not form part of your Contract of Employment.

Person Specification

Qualifications

		Desirable	Tested by* A, I, P, T
1	A degree or equivalent professional qualification	Essential	Α
2	A PhD in a relevant area	Essential	Α

Background & Experience

	The successful candidate should have:	Essential/ Desirable	Tested by* A, I, P, T
3	Recent record of excellent publications, appropriate to stage of career.	Essential	A, I, P
4	Evidence of the ability to obtain funding to support research, appropriate to stage of career.	Desirable	A, I, P
5	Post-doctoral research experience or equivalent, preferably of at least two years.	Desirable	A, I, P
6	Evidence of experience in teaching and preferably achievement, e.g. reflected in a personal teaching portfolio.	Desirable	A, I, P
7	Experience of working collaboratively (e.g. with business, policy makers or other end users, with other disciplines).	Desirable	A, I, P
8	Strong stakeholder management skills with proven track record of successfully engaging and influencing staff at all levels.	Desirable	A, I, P

Knowledge

	The successful candidate should have demonstrable knowledge of:	Essential <i>l</i> Desirable	Tested by*
			A, I, P, T
9	Good understanding of the potential non-academic impacts of the research and ways of engaging in order to achieve these.	Essential	A, I, P
10	An understanding of working with a diverse body of students and staff, creating an inclusive culture.	Essential	A, I, P
11	The public research and innovation funding sectors with knowledge of the priorities of relevant funding bodies e.g. UK Research Councils and Innovate UK, and other funding opportunities including European and global funding sources.	Essential	A, I, P

Skills & Competencies

	Tested by*
	A, I, P, T

12	Willingness to develop and conduct knowledge exchange activities including, for example engagements with businesses, industry, policy makers and public.	Essential	A, I, P
13	Familiarity with elementary financial planning, management of resources.	Essential	A, I, P
14	Ability to work with colleagues across the organisation in a respectful manner including collegiate support of colleagues.	Essential	A, I, P
15	Self-motivation and the ability to take the lead on tasks and work with a high degree of autonomy.	Essential	A, I, P
16	Commitment to supporting and promoting equality and diversity goals within the University.	Essential	A, I, P
17	Excellent communication skills with the ability to explain complex areas.	Essential	A, I, P

A = Application form I = Interview, P = Presentation, T = Test

Details of any assessments required will be provided in the invitation to interview letter.

Appointments to grade 7 and above will normally include a competency based interview and presentation.

Additional Information

The positions will be on the Academic Staff scale. Appointments will normally be made on the grade 8 academic scale (£43,414- £51,805), dependent on experience and the normal practice within the discipline.

University Fellow appointees will be subject to the standard University promotion criteria and process. During the Fellowship it is expected that Fellows will develop the evidence and track record required to make an application for promotion to Reader. Should an appointee not be ready to make an application for promotion after 5 years, they will transfer to the position of Lecturer.

Place of Work

The main place of work will be the University of Salford campuses, however we continue to operate informal hybrid working arrangements and are open to a mix of remote and campus-based working. There will definitely be a requirement for you to be on campus, but how that mix of remote and onsite works will predominately be down to the post holder to decide – we want Fellows to manage their own time and commitments and will discuss this as part of the selection process.

Application Process

When applying, it is essential that the following documents are attached (as PDFs):

- A curriculum vitae, including: career/employment history and details of any career breaks; a summary of formal training and qualifications; relevant experience and evidence of esteem such as prizes and memberships of professional bodies and a list of publications/outputs. Please restrict the total length of the CV and outputs list to a maximum of five-pages of A4.
- A covering letter addressing the person specification and stating which of the research area/s the application relates to (maximum three-pages).
- A two-page outline of your proposed research programme, including: a research plan which particularly concentrates on for the first 2-3 years and highlights in particular: the novelty:

details of any planned activities to maximise collaboration, partnership and knowledge exchange; plans for the £30K start-up funding.

You will be notified by email whether you have been shortlisted for interview and the dates of the interview. Interviews are expected to take place during the weeks commencing 20th and 27th March 2023.

The closing date for applications is 23:55 on 26th February 2023.

Informal Enquiries

Informal enquiries should be directed to Penny Cook, Associate Dean for Research and Innovation (P.A.Cook@salford.ac.uk)