



UNIVERSITY
of York

Marie Curie Early Stage Researcher

Centre for Health Economics

Closing date: 4 September 2017

Interview date: To be confirmed

Vacancy reference: 5974



 **Athena
SWAN**
Bronze Award



INTRODUCTION

The Centre for Health Economics (CHE) invites applications for a PhD Fellow funded by the Marie-Sklodowska-Curie Innovative Training Network “IQCE – Improving Quality of Care in Europe” within the Horizon 2020 Programme of the European Commission. IQCE is a consortium of high profile universities, research institutions and companies located in Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Netherlands, Italy, Portugal and UK.

The successful candidate will be enrolled on the IQCE programme leading to a PhD and will work on a project “Identifying and improving quality of care and patient safety in hospitals”.

You will need to hold a higher (Masters) degree in economics, health economics or in a quantitative subject and have strong quantitative skills, ideally with experience of working with large datasets. You will also need to meet the mobility, English language and early career requirements of the programme which are detailed below.

You will receive an attractive salary in accordance with the MSCA regulations for early stage researchers. The salary includes a living allowance, a mobility allowance and a family allowance (if married). You will have guaranteed PhD funding for 36 months. In addition you will benefit from continuing education as a part of IQCE, which includes internships and secondments, a variety of training modules as well as transferable skills courses and active participation in workshops and conferences.

JOB DESCRIPTION

At a glance

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Salary | £30,800 (or £34,250 for individuals with dependant family commitments) |
| Hours of work | Full Time, 37 hours a week |
| Contract type | Fixed Term for 36 months |
| Based at | Heslington Campus West |

Main purpose of the role

- To provide support to research project/s, undertaking research work within the overall programme and assisting with the day to day operation of the project/s
- To undertake a programme of learning and development, in the form of a PhD , as an integral part of the role

The PhD Project

Identifying and improving quality of care and patient safety in hospitals

Improving quality of care and reducing harm to patients are important priorities in any health care system. Advancing these priorities requires the identification of variations in practice and establishing what factors might be useful in transforming practice. Focusing on the hospital sector, this thesis will utilise patient-level data on treatment and outcomes available within administrative data in the UK. Across several indications, you will analyse variation in practice among hospitals and clinical teams using panel data and multilevel models. In doing so you will be able to control for governmental or other initiatives in the past that have targeted quality of care and assess whether these measures have been successful.

The thesis will identify indicators that provide strong signals of quality and safety. It will also identify hospitals where improvements need to be made and some possible mechanisms for encouraging those improvements.

Host: Centre for Health Economics York (CHE) (United Kingdom) Supervisors: Professor Martin Chalkley, Dr Nils Gutacker (martin.chalkley@york.ac.uk)

Key responsibilities

- To undertake work, which may be as part of a research team, investigating a designated area of subject knowledge to promote further understanding
- To contribute to the intellectual development of the project and plan own activities within the overall research effort
- With the guidance of the supervisor, to undertake a combination of literature searches/scholarly reading, desk and/or lab-based research, subject interviews, questionnaires/sampling or other research activity. Using specialist knowledge, techniques and/or instrumentation as required.
- Under the guidance of the project supervisor, to assist in writing articles, papers, reports or books as appropriate.
- To liaise and collaborate with students and researchers and relevant external contacts and organisations.
- To participate in the dissemination of research findings internally and externally at seminars, workshops and conferences.
- To consider the public engagement and impact of the project and take appropriate steps to maximise these with the support of the research leader
- To undertake appropriate organisational and administrative activities as delegated by the Research Supervisor. Examples may include: organising meetings, conferences and workshops; monitoring budgets and stock control; developing promotional or educational material, including website maintenance and development.
- To prioritise tasks within an agreed work schedule to ensure that the project(s) are delivered on time.
- To undertake a programme of development, in the form of a PhD, to further specialist understanding and expertise in the subject area.
- To document work appropriately and in accordance with research best practice.
- To work closely with the supervisor to prepare work for dissemination, presenting preliminary findings at meetings within the research group as appropriate

JOB DESCRIPTION

- Conduct research leading to a PhD thesis
- Collaborate and network with IQCE fellows
- Attend courses, workshops and seminars
- Attend non-academic internship opportunities

Eligibility criteria

Before you apply please ensure you meet the following criteria for IQCE. You must;

- Hold a recognized master's degree in economics, health economics, business administration or other related subjects. You must have a high-quality master's degree or an equivalent academic degree from an internationally recognized university.
- Be an early-stage researcher. At the time of employment you must be in the first four years (or full-time equivalent) of your research career. This is measured from the date you obtained a degree which formally entitles you to embark on PhD, either in the country in which the degree was obtained or in the UK
- Meet conditions of international mobility of researchers: **At the time of employment you must not have resided or carried out your main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the UK for more than 12 months in total during the last 3 years.** Short stays, such as holidays, are not taken into account.
- Be able to demonstrate your ability to understand and express yourself in both written and oral English language to a sufficiently advanced extent to fully benefit from the network training. Recognized English language certificates (TOEFL, IELTS) must be submitted along with your application.
- You must already hold existing right to work in the UK

PERSON SPECIFICATION

| | Essential / Desirable |
|---|--------------------------|
| Qualifications | |
| Masters degree in economics, health economics or in a quantitative subject | Essential |
| Recognized English language certificates (TOEFL, IELTS) must be submitted along with your application | Essential |
| Knowledge | |
| Knowledge of relevant subject area | Essential |
| Knowledge of a range of research techniques and methodologies | Desirable |
| Skills, abilities and competencies | |
| Ability to undertake academic research. | Essential |
| Ability to organise own research activities to agreed deadlines and quality standards | Essential |
| Very good written communication | Essential |
| Very good level oral communication skills to enable the effective presentation of research progress and outcomes. | Desirable |

PERSON SPECIFICATION

| | Essential / Desirable |
|---|--------------------------|
| Ability to work as part of a team and also to work independently using own initiative | Essential |
| Personal attributes | |
| Interest in and enthusiasm for the subject matter of the project(s) | Essential |
| Positive attitude to colleagues | Essential |
| A passion for conducting high quality research with impact | Essential |
| Willingness to work proactively with colleagues in other institutions | Essential |
| Ability to plan and prioritise own work in order to meet deadlines | Essential |
| Commitment to personal development and updating of knowledge and skills | Essential |



THE DEPARTMENT

The Centre for Health Economics at the University of York

The Centre for Health Economics (CHE) was established at the University of York in 1983, and was one of the world's first research institutes dedicated to the study of the economics of health and health care. It rapidly established a leading international reputation, and is now one of the world's largest health economics research centres. In a ranking of the top 100 institutions in health economics in the world, the University of York is ranked 7th and is the highest ranking European institution.

We have a long track record in delivering high quality policy-relevant research that makes a positive difference to society. We maintain high scientific standards and place a premium on the rigour and quality of our work. Our mission is to be a globally recognised research centre, committed to the development and application of the discipline of economics in order to promote health and wellbeing through the effective, efficient and equitable use of scarce resources.

Further details of the projects and topics within the core themes can be found on our website: <http://www.york.ac.uk/che/research/>

IQCE

IQCE is a collaboration between the University of Hamburg,

Bocconi University, Erasmus University Rotterdam, Universidade Nova de Lisboa, University of Southern Denmark, University of York and St. Jude Medical

The aim of the programme is to improve the quality and performance of European health care systems and involves training a total of 15 PhDs fellows appointed. Each PhD will focus on one of six dimensions of health care quality as defined by the World Health Organization (WHO): effectiveness; safety; efficiency; access; equitability; and acceptability. The programme provides extensive opportunities for traveling and cultural exchange. Please find more detailed information at www.iqce.eu.

The IQCE programme provides a structured PhD programme offered by the participating universities. In total, you will attend 10 courses in addition to several soft skill courses as well as joint research workshops and conferences. You will also have the opportunity to complete academic and non-academic secondments. Academic secondments to partner universities are intended to foster a closer exchange of ideas among PhDs. For this PhD fellowship the Department of Health England, is a non-academic partner and will offer the opportunity of a secondment to work with professional health economics analysts. (please see www.iqce.eu for details).



THE UNIVERSITY

Founded on principles of excellence, equality and opportunity for all, the University of York opened in 1963 with just 230 students. In 2017 it is the centre for almost 16,000 students across more than 30 academic departments and research centres. In over 50 years we have become one of the world's leading universities and a member of the prestigious Russell Group.

The University has consistently been recognised as one of the leading Higher Education Institutes and is one of just six post-war universities which appear in the world top 100 (2013-14) and 15th in the Times & Sunday Times league table (2016). The University of York has won six Times Higher Education (THE) Awards and five Queen's Anniversary Prizes.

We are proud of our association with Athena SWAN, holding ten awards in support of women in science, with gold awards for Chemistry and Biology as well as a University-wide bronze award.

Of 154 universities that took part in the Research Excellence Framework (REF) in 2014, The University of York ranked 14th overall and 10th on the impact of our research. The University is consistently in the top ten UK research universities and attracts over £60m a year of funding from research alone.

Our vision is to make the University of York a world leader in the creation of knowledge through fundamental and applied research, the sharing of knowledge by teaching students from varied backgrounds and the application of knowledge for the health, prosperity and well-being of people and society.



THE UNIVERSITY

Attractive workplace

Centred around the picturesque village of Heslington on the edge of the city of York, our colleges are set in an attractive landscaped campus. With a compact and easy to get around design, York enjoys a safe, friendly atmosphere. The campus offers a wealth of facilities, which includes bars, shops, theatres and concert halls all within easy walking distance.

The University has undergone an unprecedented period of expansion and renewal. Since 2000 we have invested in twenty new buildings on the original campus and have completed the first and second phases of a £750m campus expansion. Our investment in new colleges, teaching and learning space, laboratories, research facilities and a new sports village mean there has never been a better time to join us.

During this period of change we've worked hard to retain our friendly, informal and collegiate atmosphere, which is important to our core values of inclusivity and interdisciplinarity.

We have a thriving international community and are committed to providing all staff moving to York with as much support as possible through our [Relocation Package](#) and [Welcome Officers](#).

The University aims to offer a nurturing and supportive environment as an employer. Flexible working hours, nursery facilities, childcare vouchers, cycle to work scheme, generous holidays and an attractive pension scheme all make the University of York one of the region's leading employers.

For further information please visit [Rewards Extra](#)

THE CITY AND THE REGION

The City of York

Internationally acclaimed for its rich heritage and historic architecture, York's bustling streets are filled with visitors from all over the world. Within its medieval walls you will find the iconic gothic Minster, Clifford's Tower and the Shambles - just a few of the many attractions.

But York isn't just a great place to visit - it's also a great place to live and work. While nourishing a vibrant cosmopolitan atmosphere, York still maintains the friendly sense of community unique to a small city.

Visit www.visitヨーク.org for more information on the city of York

Shopping, culture and entertainment

York boasts specialist and unique boutiques but also all the high street stores on its busy shopping streets. Alongside them you will find cinemas, theatres, an opera house, art galleries, a vast range of restaurants, live music venues and clubs. York is particularly renowned for its multitude of pubs and bars, from the modern to the medieval.

Housing and schools

Whether you choose to live close to the city, in one of the surrounding villages or further afield, you will find a wide range of housing within comfortable distance of York and the University. For families, the area has a range of excellent schools both in the state and independent sector.

Great location

York is one of Britain's best-connected cities. Halfway between London and Edinburgh on the East Coast mainline, on intercity trains you can reach London King's Cross in less than two hours and Edinburgh in two and a half hours. York is also well served by road links, and it is easily accessible from the A1, M1 and the M62.



For those travelling from overseas, Manchester Airport is two hours away and Heathrow Airport just three and a half. Flights from nearby Leeds Bradford Airport provide easy access to mainland Europe. By Eurostar from London St Pancras, Paris is just over six hours away.

Yorkshire

The Lonely Planet guide recently declared Yorkshire the third best region in the world to visit. There is something to cater to every taste, whether it be the rugged landscapes of the Moors or the Dales, the picturesque seaside towns of Scarborough and Robin Hoods Bay, the gothic architecture of Whitby or the vibrancy of cosmopolitan Leeds.



Apply online

- Go to <https://jobs.york.ac.uk>
- Find this job using reference 5974
- Please email your application to application@iqce.eu

You will need to submit your completed application by midnight (GMT) on 4 September 2017

What will I need?

- your detailed CV
- A letter of application describing how you meet the requirements of the job
- Bachelor's and Master's transcripts
- Proof of sufficient English language skills

You will also need details of 2 referees.

Help and assistance

Direct any informal queries to martin.chalkley@york.ac.uk
More general enquiries to Trish Smith (trish.smith@york.ac.uk).

If you have any questions about your application, contact the HR Services team:

recruitment@york.ac.uk

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