



Reference Number: 015489
Post: Assistant Professor (Research) in Medical Humanities
Department: Anthropology
Location: Durham City
Contract Type: Full Time, Fixed Term with a planned end date 31 March 2020. We will consider requests for flexible working arrangements including potential job shares.
Salary Range Grade 7 (£32,548 - £38,832)
Closing Date 18 September 2018 (midday)

Overview

The Institute for Medical Humanities at Durham University wishes to appoint a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in social science for a period of 18 months. The post is part of a significant expansion of medical humanities at Durham funded by a major Development Award from the Wellcome Trust. The award supports the Institute's vision to change the way health research is done through exploring the human experience of health and illness. The Postdoctoral Fellow will contribute to this vision by developing their own independent research and working toward securing external funding to advance their research further within the Institute. The post-holder will be based within the IMH and will also be a member of either the Department of Anthropology or Geography, according to background.

Institute for Medical Humanities

The Durham Centre for Medical Humanities was formed in 2000 and has played a leading role in developing the critical medical humanities nationally and internationally. In October 2018 the Centre will relaunch as the UK's first Institute for Medical Humanities (IMH). Research in the Institute is organised within five interdisciplinary research programmes: Embodied Symptoms, Thinking, Feeling, Imagining, Everyday Environments; the Science of Human Experience; and Critical Concepts. The IMH is also home to two major interdisciplinary research projects funded by the Wellcome Trust: [Hearing the Voice](#) and the [Life of Breath](#). The candidate will be expected to align their proposed research to one of the research programmes in IMH.

Durham University

Durham University is one of the world's top universities with strengths across the Arts and Humanities, Sciences, and Social Sciences. We are home to some of the most talented scholars and researchers from around the world who are tackling global issues and making a difference to people's lives.

The University sits in a beautiful historic city where it shares ownership of a UNESCO World Heritage Site with Durham Cathedral, the greatest Romanesque building in Western Europe. A collegiate University, Durham recruits outstanding students from across the world and offers an unmatched wider student experience.

County Durham is a region steeped in history and natural beauty. The Durham Dales, including the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, are home to breathtaking scenery and attractions. Durham offers an excellent choice of city, suburban and rural residential locations. The University provides a range of benefits including pension and childcare benefits and the University's Relocation Manager can assist with potential schooling requirements.

Durham University seeks to promote and maintain an inclusive and supportive environment for work and study that assists all members of our University community to reach their full potential. Diversity brings strength and we welcome applications from across the international, national and regional communities that we work with and serve.

The Department(s)

Anthropology

Founded in 1965, the Department of Anthropology at Durham is now one of the largest integrated anthropology departments in the UK carrying out innovative research on cutting-edge topics spanning social anthropology, evolutionary anthropology, and the anthropology of health. Our 40 academics and over 20 postdoctoral researchers employ a wide range of social science and natural science perspectives to explore questions about human life in its evolutionary, environmental and cultural contexts. Our taught programmes offer students the opportunity to pursue general and specialist anthropology programmes at undergraduate and postgraduate levels, while our PhD students study topics from primate behaviour to rhetoric culture and from indigenous knowledge to internet technologies. With our first-class facilities, innovative programmes, and world-leading academics, Durham is setting the agenda for 21st century anthropology. We prioritise staff wellbeing and collegiality, strive to be a gender-aware Department and have been awarded an Equality Change Unit (ECU) Gender Equality Charter Mark.

Geography

The Department of Geography at Durham comprises 68 academic staff (approximately equally divided between physical and human geography), a graduate school of around 100 research students, around 40 taught postgraduate students and more than 650 undergraduates. The Department is well supported with technical staff, including a cartography unit, and administrative staff. The most recent QS rankings for Geography placed Durham 7th overall in the world, its 5th

year in the top ten, and 1st for citations in the discipline. The department is recurrently ranked in the top handful of programmes in the UK by various league tables; in 2016, we were ranked 2nd in the Times Good University Guide and 3rd in both the Complete University Guide and the Guardian University Guide. The Department was graded top for research power (quality weighted by volume) in UK geography in REF 2014 and 3rd for iGPA (average 2 score scaled by proportion of staff submitted). With 43% of work assessed as being in the highest category, it produced the largest number of world-leading (4*) publications in the country.

Job Description

The appointee will work closely with Professor Jane Macnaughton (IMH Director and Department of Anthropology), Professor Sarah Atkinson (Associate IMH Director and Department of Geography) and other senior researchers in IMH. The successful applicant will pursue an original programme of research aligned to the Institute's vision and leading to significant outputs. They will be active in applying for external funding to pursue subsequent research, including through major programmes such as Wellcome, ESRC, Leverhulme Trust. The research fellow will be expected to apply social science insights, knowledge and methods to an important area of health and wellbeing and demonstrate how this research will advance knowledge or practice in health. The research will have to opportunity to advance existing research through the production of high quality publications in discipline-specific journals but also be open to cross-disciplinary and collaborative publications with colleagues in IMH. The fellow will be expected to work both independently and collaboratively, contributing to the life of the Institute which has a vibrant early career researcher group, active blog and extensive opportunities for outreach and public engagement.

The Role

The successful candidate will:

- Pursue an original research project leading to new insights into the human experience of health;
- Publish high quality outputs, including papers for submission to peer reviewed journals and papers for presentation at conferences and workshops;
- Advance an original research plan for application to a major funder (such as Wellcome, ESRC, Leverhulme) for a postdoctoral fellowship to be located within IMH;
- Contribute to the quality of the research environment of the IMH and enhance and promote the IMH's profile in the wider scholarly community;
- Provide evidence of outstanding research achievement and/or potential in critical medical humanities;
- Provide evidence of excellent methodological practice in social science research;

- Assist, as appropriate, the IMH's work of engagement and impact with non-academic bodies;
- Pursue opportunities for professional development;
- Demonstrate commitment to values of equality and inclusion which the University strongly promotes.

The successful applicant will, ideally, be in post by 1st October 2018.

Research

Candidates must have capacity for and be progressing towards the independent development of internationally excellent research that produces high quality outcomes, including some work that is recognised as world class.

The essential criteria for this post are as follows:

Essential Criteria	Grade 7
1. Qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A good first degree in social sciences • a PhD in a relevant field
2. Research experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience in conducting high quality academic research in a field relevant to the IMH's vision • Demonstrable ability to write material of a quality commensurate with publication in highly regarded journals • Record of ability to present research papers at significant conferences • Evidence of sustained and developing attainments in research design and implementation appropriate to career path and stage indicative of commitment to and potential for independence and excellence in research, and the potential for future research leadership
3. Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrable ability to work cooperatively as part of a team, including participating in research meetings • The ability to work with interdisciplinary approaches • The ability to work independently on their own initiative and to strict deadlines
4 Outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience, skills and/or achievements which demonstrate the potential to

Candidates are asked to submit two research papers with their application (as outlined below). Candidates may additionally choose to submit evidence such as external peer review of their outputs	produce high quality outputs, some of which are recognised as world-class.
5. Personal Research Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence of a personal research plan which aligns with the IMH programmes of research and advances its vision.

The desirable research criteria for this post (for which candidates should provide evidence of some, if not all, criteria) are as follows:

Desirable Criteria	Grade 7
A. Research Leadership Candidates may choose to include information about research group leadership, invitations to external events, engagement with international networks or projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experience, skills and/or achievements that demonstrate the potential to contribute to the leadership of research groups and collaboration with other researchers.
B. Research Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experiences, skills and/or achievements that demonstrate the potential to evidence research impact beyond their institution.
C. Income Generation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experience, skills and/or achievements that demonstrate the potential to develop successful research project proposals.

How to Apply

We prefer to receive applications online via the Durham University Vacancies Site. <https://www.dur.ac.uk/jobs/>. As part of the application process, you should provide details of 3 (preferably academic/research) referees and the details of your current line manager so that we may seek an employment reference.

Applications are particularly welcome from women and black and minority ethnic candidates, who are under-represented in academic posts in the University.

What to Submit

All applicants are asked to submit the documents below in support of their application. Wherever possible please upload a PDF. If this is not possible, please upload in the format of a widely used file type from Microsoft Office (but not PowerPoint) or Microsoft Open.

Please limit the file size as much as possible, aiming for a 3Mb file size limit. Applicants are requested to submit:

- A CV and covering letter which details your experience, strengths and potential in the requirements set out above.
- PDFs of two of your most significant pieces of work, at least one of which should be published after 2013. Please note that your work may be read by colleagues from across the IMH and the relevant Department.
- A personal research plan (2 pages maximum) showing how your research engages with the five programmes of research at the IMH.

For informal enquiries please see the contact information below. All enquiries will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Contact Information		
University contact for general queries about the recruitment process		
Natalie McNeil Recruitment and Resourcing Administrator, Faculty of Social Sciences and Health	For general queries	e.recruitment@durham.ac.uk +44 (0) 191 334 6536
Department contact for academic-related enquiries		
Professor Jane Macnaughton or Professor Sarah Atkinson	For academic and IMH-related queries	Jane.macnaughton@durham.ac.uk s.j.atkinson@durham.ac.uk

Next Steps

Short-listed candidates will be invited to the University and will have the opportunity to meet with key members of the Institute. The assessment for the post will include a short presentation and an interview.