



**OPPORTUNITY**

## Research Associate

**Reference:** R210358

**Salary:** £34,304 to £44,706 per annum, depending on experience. Grade 8

**Contract Type:** Fixed term for 24 months

**Basis:** Full Time

# Job description

**Post Title: Research Assistant/Associate – NIHR Grant: REalist Synthesis Of non-pharmacological interVENTions for antipsychotic-induced weight gain (RESOLVE) in people living with Severe Mental Illness (SMI)**

## **Job Purpose:**

To contribute to, develop and lead research activities of the School either independently or as part of a team, through professional practice and expertise. The post holder will be member of a research group with responsibility for conducting a National Institute of Health Research Health Services and Delivery Research funded realist synthesis that aims to develop guidance on the use of non-pharmacological interventions for antipsychotic-induced weight gain (RESOLVE) in people living with Severe Mental Illness (SMI)

The project is the result of collaboration between the Aston University, Universities of Oxford, Cambridge and Birmingham and the University of East Anglia in collaboration with the McPin foundation. The post-holder will be employed by the College of Health and Life Sciences at Aston University. The post-holder will conduct the realist synthesis and day-to-day running of the project. The post-holder will report to Dr Ian Maidment and will be provided with support, guidance and (if required) training in realist synthesis by members of the project team. In addition, the postholder will exploit external links with regional, UK and international bodies such as government agencies, schools, colleges, professional bodies, business and industry as appropriate to the subject discipline and School and/or University strategy.

The research is led by Ian Maidment, a leading researcher into medication management and pharmacy interventions using realism (MEMORABLE and PERISCOPE projects) with over 20 years' experience as a practising pharmacist. The other team members bring further expertise; Geoff Wong (realist methods); Claire Duddy (realist methods/literature searching); Dan Robotham (PPI); Rachel Upthegrove (psychiatry); Amy Ahern (development and evaluation of behavioural interventions); Suzanne Higgs (nutrition and behaviour change); Sheri Oduola (nursing).

Claire Duddy, Geoff Wong and Ian Maidment where necessary will provide the post holder with all relevant training and ongoing support with the realist synthesis approach. The team have unrivalled expertise in this approach and so the successful applicant stands to gain unparalleled experience in realist synthesis. They will also assist the post-holder with searching and document retrieval. Work on the realist synthesis will involve: developing a programme theory; search strategies; accessing, selecting and reviewing relevant documents; managing databases; interviewing key stakeholders (clinicians, patients and carers), analysing and synthesising data; dissemination; supporting Public Patient Involvement, producing the final report to the NIHR and the guidelines and writing and contributing to papers for peer review publication.

The planned start date for the project is sometime between 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021 and 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022; remote working with regular face-to-face meetings at Aston may

be possible. You will need to be able to travel within the UK as required for relevant meetings.

## **Main duties and responsibilities**

### **Research**

- ▶ To be responsible for the day-to-day delivery of RESOLVE.
- ▶ Execute a realist synthesis with support and if needed training from the project team, which includes: developing and refining a programme theory; search strategies; accessing, selecting and reviewing research papers; managing databases; interviewing key stakeholders; analysing and synthesising data and refining theories as appropriate.
- ▶ Organise, set-up and conduct interviews with key stakeholders (including international collaborators).
- ▶ Lead on the application for ethical approval and manage the project data in accordance with Good Clinical Practice Guidelines.
- ▶ Update relevant knowledge and undertake any further training as required to undertake the research.
- ▶ To develop research objectives from RESOLVE, and potentially projects and proposals for personal/joint research programmes consistent with the priorities and strategy of the School, with the assistance of a mentor if required.
- ▶ Develop website content, social media materials and e-newsletters to support on-going dissemination of project outputs.
- ▶ Provide support for the organisation and delivery of the end of project Stakeholder Event.
- ▶ Undertake any other appropriate tasks to support the delivery of the research project.
- ▶ To write up and publish, including the final report for the funders, the outcomes of research in good quality publications.
- ▶ To present papers, posters, reports at seminars, conferences etc.
- ▶ To collaborate in research initiatives with colleagues in and beyond the School as appropriate.
- ▶ To identify sources of funding for follow-on research, and support the development and submission of funding applications.
- ▶ Where appropriate to School/University strategy and subject discipline, to participate in and develop external networks.
- ▶ To supervise and manage research projects including supporting PhD and other postgraduate students to completion.
- ▶ To coach junior colleagues in research.

## **External engagement**

- ▶ To represent the interests of the subject and School via activities to raise the regional, national and international profile, particularly with the professions, schools and businesses.
- ▶ To forge relationships with the professional bodies and other bodies representing relevant professional interests.

## **Citizenship**

- ▶ To take part in the meetings and activities of the Academic Department.
- ▶ To demonstrate the University's leadership values through own actions and behaviour.
- ▶ To undertake such other duties as may be reasonably requested and that are commensurate with the nature and grade of the post.

## **Additional responsibilities**

- ▶ Engage in continuous personal and professional development in line with the demands of the role, including undertaking relevant training and development activities to develop themselves and support the development of others.
- ▶ Ensure and promote the personal health, safety and wellbeing of staff and students.
- ▶ Carry out duties in a way which promotes fairness in all matters and which engenders trust.
- ▶ Promote equality of opportunity and support diversity and inclusion as well as working to support the University's environmental sustainability agenda and practices.

## Person specification

	Essential	Method of assessment
<b>Education and qualifications</b>	Hold a relevant PhD or equivalent qualification/experience.	Application form
<b>Experience</b>	<p>Relevant research experience including undertaking interviews and analysis of qualitative data.</p> <p>Experience of writing up/contributing to the write up of research for peer-reviewed publications.</p> <p>Experience of producing papers, posters, reports presenting at seminars, conferences etc.</p> <p>Experience of positive collaboration within and outside of candidate's immediate research team.</p> <p>Conducting research to Good Clinical Practice Standards, including recruiting and consenting participants and management of research data</p> <p>Experience of systematic approaches to searching, evaluating and analysing research literature.</p>	Application form and interview
<b>Aptitude and skills</b>	<p>Ability to present data in both a clear and concise manner that is visually appealing.</p> <p>Ability to prepare written communications to a high standard</p> <p>Ability to develop and maintain a research programme and to publish in high quality publications.</p>	Application form and interview

	Essential	Method of assessment
	<p>Ability to harness IT as a research and teaching tool</p> <p>A willingness to undertake further training as appropriate and to adopt new procedures as and when required.</p> <p>Ability to work within the Good Clinical Practice Framework to deliver clinical research</p>	

	Desirable	Method of assessment
<b>Education and qualifications</b>	Pharmacy/healthcare first undergraduate degree (or equivalent qualification).	Application form
<b>Experience</b>	<p>Realist research (review and interviews).</p> <p>Independently managing a discrete area of a research project.</p> <p>Experience of conducting a systematic review of the literature following a recognised methodology (e.g. Cochrane, Campbell, CRD, EPPI-Centre, Joanna Briggs Institute).</p> <p>Possess knowledge or experience of medication management.</p> <p>Working with people who have lived experience of the topic being studied.</p> <p>Supervising other personnel.</p>	Application form and interview
<b>Aptitude and Skills</b>	Positive attitude towards research with people with mental illness	Interview and Presentation



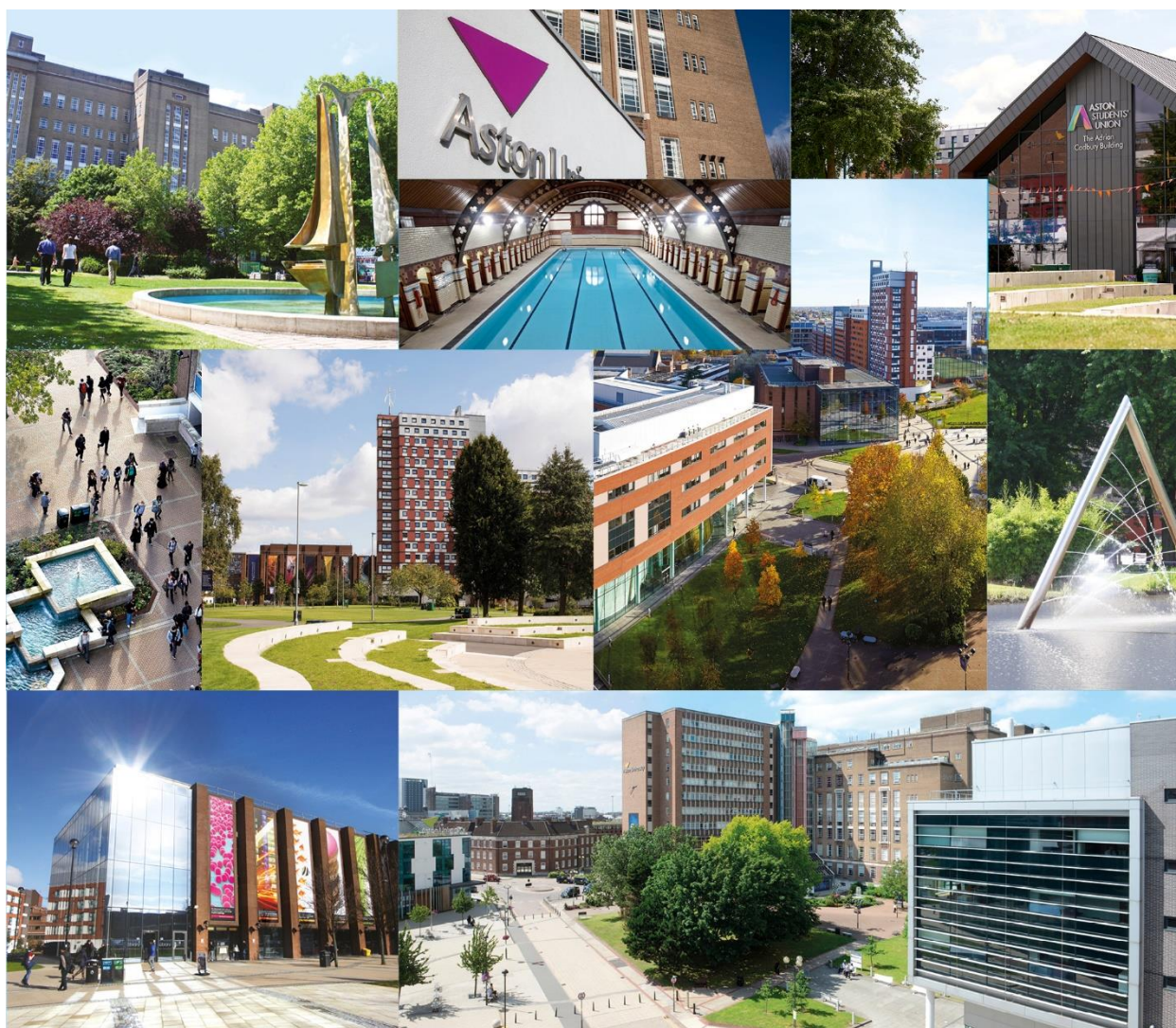
# How to apply

You can apply for this role online via our website <https://www2.aston.ac.uk/staff-public/hr/jobs>.

Applications should be submitted by 23:59 GMT on the advertised closing date.  
All applicants must complete an application form, along with your CV.

Any CV sent direct to the Recruitment Team and Recruiting Manager will not be accepted.

If you require a manual application form then please contact the Recruitment Team via [jobs@aston.ac.uk](mailto:jobs@aston.ac.uk).



## Contact information

## Enquiries about the vacancy:

Name: Dr Ian Maidment  
Job Title: Principal Investigator  
Email: [i.maidment@aston.ac.uk](mailto:i.maidment@aston.ac.uk)

## Enquiries about the application process, shortlisting or interviews:

Recruitment Team via [jobs@aston.ac.uk](mailto:jobs@aston.ac.uk) or 0121 204 4500.

# Additional information

Visit our website <https://www2.aston.ac.uk/staff-public/hr> for full details of our salary scales and benefits Aston University staff enjoy

**Salary scales:** <https://www2.aston.ac.uk/staff-public/hr/payroll-and-pensions/salary-scales/index>

**Benefits:** <https://www2.aston.ac.uk/staff-public/hr/Benefits-and-Rewards/index>

**Working in Birmingham:** <https://www2.aston.ac.uk/birmingham>

**Employment of Ex-Offenders:** Under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974, a person with a criminal record is not required to disclose any spent convictions unless the positions they applying for is listed an exception under the act.

## Eligibility to work in the UK:

### Post-Brexit transition period / EU Settlement Scheme

The post-Brexit transition period ended on 31 December 2020. If you are an EU/EEA citizen and you were a resident in the UK before 31 December 2020, you and your family members (including non-EU citizens need to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme to continue to live, work and study in the UK beyond 30 June 2021. The deadline for applying to the EU settlement scheme is 30 June 2021. You can apply via the Government webpage <https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>

Irish Nationals do not need to apply for settlement as they retain the right to work in the UK.

### New immigration system for EU/EEA and Swiss Nationals who were not resident in the UK before 31 December 2020

A new immigration system has been introduced for people arriving in the UK from EEA countries with effect from 1 January 2021. In addition to those who have always required a visa, EU citizens moving to the UK to work will need to get a visa in advance. You can find more information on the following website. Candidates should check their eligibility to enter or remain in the UK in advance of making any job application via the UKVI website <https://www.gov.uk/browse/visas-immigration/work-visas>. Before applying you should ensure that you meet the requirements, including meeting the English Language requirements. If you do not meet the eligibility criteria, any application for a work visa would be unsuccessful. If you require a visa to work in the UK the most common types of visa are:

#### Skilled Worker Visa



<https://www.gov.uk/skilled-worker-visa>

### **Global Talent Visa**

If you are a leader or potential leader in one of the following fields you may be eligible to apply for a Global Talent Visa:

- Academia or Research
- Arts and Culture
- Digital Technology

Please click the following link for further information and to check your eligibility for this visa.

<https://www.gov.uk/global-talent>

**Equal Opportunities:** Aston University promotes equality and diversity in all aspects of its work. We aim to ensure, through our admissions policies for students, and our staff recruitment and selection processes that we encourage applications from all groups represented in the wider community at a local, national and international level.

The University will endeavour not to discriminate unfairly or illegally, directly or indirectly, against student or potential students, staff or potential staff. This commitment applies to all functions of the University and to any stage of an individual's career.

An Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form is included within the application form. Data you provide on the Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form will be included in a general database, for statistical monitoring purposes, enabling the University to monitor the effectiveness of its Policy, Codes of Practice and Guidelines on Equal Opportunities in Employment. Individuals will not be identified by name.

**Data Protection:** Your personal data will be processed in compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulation ((EU) 2016/679) ("GDPR"). The University's Data Protection Policy and Privacy Notices, including the Job Applicant Privacy Notice can be found at <https://www2.aston.ac.uk/data-protection>. Your application will only be used to inform the selection process, unless you are successful, in which case it will form the basis of your personal record with the University which will be stored in manual and/or electronic files. Information in statistical form on present and former employees is given to appropriate outside bodies.

Full details of our terms and conditions of service and associated policies and procedures are available online at <https://www2.aston.ac.uk/staff-public/hr/policies>

**Aston University**

**Birmingham**

**B4 7ET, UK.**

**+44 (0)121 204 3000**

**aston.ac.uk**



**Where change  
gets real.**