

**FURTHER PARTICULARS**

**Research Worker  
Department of Psychological Medicine  
Sections of Eating Disorders and General Hospital Psychiatry**

**Ref No: 07/R68**

**1. THE INSTITUTE OF PSYCHIATRY**

1.1 The Institute of Psychiatry is a postgraduate medical school associated with the South London and Maudsley NHS Trust, and is a School of King's College London of the University of London. It has an outstanding international reputation in the field of research and in the most recent HEFCE Research Assessment Exercise (2001) was awarded the highest (5\*) rating. The Institute has approximately 550 students and over 900 staff and has an annual turnover of approximately £63 million. The Institute offers a range of Diploma, MSc, MPhil, and PhD courses in psychiatry, psychology and related basic and clinical neurosciences.

1.2 The complementary roles of the Institute are

- to pioneer research into new and improved ways of understanding and treating mental illness and brain disease;
- to offer advanced University training for psychiatrists, psychologists, neurologists and other scientific and paramedical workers.

1.3 The Institute comprises 8 Academic Departments - Psychology, Psychological Medicine, Neuroscience, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Forensic Mental Health Sciences, Neurology, Neuropathology, Biostatistics and Computing; three Research Centres; Social, Genetic and Developmental Psychiatry Research Centre, Health Services Research Centre; the Centre for the Cellular Basis of Behaviour (CCBB); and a full range of academic support services.

1.4 Research is organised across departmental boundaries in the following Research Centres and Interdisciplinary Research Groups (IRGs):

Social, Genetic and Developmental Psychiatry Research Centre  
Health Services Research Centre  
Antisocial Behaviour  
Disorders of Childhood  
Addictions  
Emotional Disorders  
Neurodegeneration and Head Injury  
Psychology and Medicine  
Psychosis

## 2. **THE SECTION OF EATING DISORDERS**

**Senior Clinical Academic Staff:** Prof. Janet Treasure, Prof. of Psychiatry at Guys Hospital, Prof. Ulrike Schmidt, Prof. of Eating Disorders, Institute of Psychiatry, Dr. Ivan Eisler, Reader in Family Therapy, Institute of Psychiatry, Dr. Kate Tchanturia, Consultant Clinical Psychologist, Institute of Psychiatry.

**Research workers:** The unit employs a number of research fellows, research workers and PhD students.

**Research activities:** The Eating Disorders Research Unit houses a large portfolio of research projects. All our research aims to further our understanding of the underlying causes of eating disorders and to develop better treatments for sufferers. Current projects include studies on the genetic, neuropsychological, personal and environmental risk factors and their interactions in different eating disorders; studies using brain scanning to understand the different ways in which food and other cues are being processed in anorexia nervosa and bulimia nervosa are being conducted. A number of different treatment studies are in progress, designed to evaluate psychological treatments for people with eating disorders and their carers and using new technologies in treatment. The Unit has many national and international research collaborations and is part of a Marie Curie Research Training Network (INTACT), funded by the European Union (<https://www.intact.psyres.de>). Details of ongoing research conducted by the Unit can be found on our web-site ([www.eatingresearch.com](http://www.eatingresearch.com)) and in our research newsletter.

## 3. **THE SECTION OF GENERAL HOSPITAL PSYCHIATRY**

The Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Research and Treatment Unit receives about 400 referrals per year. The multi-disciplinary team assesses and treats patients with chronic fatigue syndrome and carries out research into both causes and treatment efficacy.

## 4. **THE PROJECT AND THE POST**

The post holder will work across the Section of Eating Disorders and the Section of General Hospital Psychiatry (Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Research and Treatment Unit), spending their time flexibly between sections depending on the demands of the project. The postholder will be the research worker in day-to-day charge of a project entitled: 'Emotional Processing in Psychosomatic Disorders'. This project is funded through the newly established Biomedical Research Centre at the Institute of Psychiatry.

**Background:** Anorexia nervosa (AN) and chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS) are classical psychosomatic disorders where response to social threat is expressed somatically (e.g. Hatcher & House, 2003; Kato et al., 2006; Schmidt et al., 1997). Other similarities between these disorders include strong female preponderance and overlapping personality characteristics, such as being introverted and anxious/avoidant.

Aberrant emotional processing is a strong candidate as a maintaining factor for these disorders (Schmidt and Treasure, 2006). Improved knowledge about the precise nature, potency and combination of different factors in different psychosomatic disorders is likely to lead to improved treatments. The project will attempt to answer the following questions.

1. Can people with anorexia nervosa and chronic fatigue recognise or infer complex emotions in individual stimuli/cues as well as control subjects?
2. Can people with AN and chronic fatigue integrate social cues effectively to infer emotion during social interaction?

A variety of measures will be used including questionnaires and experimental tasks to conduct cross-sectional and longitudinal assessments of patients with anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa (psychiatric control), chronic fatigue, healthy controls and physical illness controls (rheumatoid arthritis).

Please see the following job description for further details.

## **JOB DESCRIPTION**

<b>Job Title</b>	Research Worker
<b>Department</b>	Section of Eating Disorders and Chronic Fatigue Research Unit
<b>Organisational Relationships</b>	The post holder will work under the immediate supervision of Professors Ulrike. Schmidt and Trudie. Chalder

### **Job Summary**

This is a 12-month full time post. The post holder will be responsible for recruiting and assessing the study participants, entering data, performing preliminary data analyses and assisting with the day to day running of the study.

### **Duties and Responsibilities**

Specific duties and responsibilities will include the following.

- The main task of the post holder relates to the smooth day to day operation of the study.
- Recruitment and data collection: The post-holder will be expected to recruit and assess participants. This activity will take place in a variety of sites. This includes the Denmark Hill Campus, and the Bethlem Royal Hospital site and Guys Hospital. The post involves regular liaison with clinical staff in all parts of the Eating Disorders and Chronic Fatigue Unit.
- Data handling: The post-holder will be expected to set up and maintain a data base for the study.
- Data Analysis: The post-holder will be expected to contribute to the analysis of the data.
- The post-holder will be expected to produce research reports to the grant-giving body and to contribute to paper-writing at the end of the project.
- Any other duties appropriate to the grade as directed by the supervisor.

### **Grade** RA1A/RA1B

To be appointed on the RA1A scale, applicants should hold a first degree in Psychology together with a PhD or the equivalent relevant postgraduate research experience.

The above duties will be subject to review from time to time, in discussion with the post holder, to ascertain whether they meet the requirements of the department.



5. **THE APPLICANT**

The qualities we expect candidates to demonstrate are outlined in the following Person Specification.

<b>ESSENTIAL</b>	<b>PREFERRED</b>
<b>Qualifications</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Min 2:1 degree in Psychology</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ MSc or PhD in Mental Health, Neurosciences or related areas</li> </ul>
<b>Knowledge and skills</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Understanding of research methods</li> <li>▪ Basic computer skills</li> <li>▪ Basic statistics</li> </ul>	
<b>Experience</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relevant research experience, e.g. conducting quantitative and qualitative research</li> <li>• Experience report/paper writing</li> <li>▪ Some experience in working with psychiatric patients</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Experience working with eating disorder and/or chronic fatigue patients</li> </ul>
<b>Personal characteristics</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Excellent communication and interpersonal skills</li> <li>▪ Motivated</li> <li>▪ Reliable</li> <li>▪ Organised</li> <li>▪ Team player</li> </ul>	
<b>Interests</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Interested in clinical psychology</li> </ul>

5. **SALARY, CONDITIONS AND BENEFITS**

The conditions of service will be those that apply to all Research, Analogous and other related Academic staff employed by the Institute and include the following;

<u>Salary</u>	An appropriate point on the Non-clinical Research 1A/1B (range £23,175 pa to £24,332 pa inclusive of £2,323 pa London Allowance).
<u>Hours</u>	Unspecified - Normal full-time hours are 35 hours a week.
<u>Holidays</u>	30 working days per annum in addition to public holidays (pro-rata for part-timers).
<u>Pension</u>	Optional membership of the Universities Superannuation Scheme. Employees contribution is currently 6.35% of gross salary. Continued membership of NHSPS may be possible.
<u>Probation</u>	The standard probationary period for Institute appointments is one year.
<u>Term</u>	The funding for this post is for one year.
<u>Medical</u>	All Institute appointments are subject to a satisfactory medical report.
<u>Smoking</u>	King's College London is committed to maintaining a healthy environment for staff, students and visitors. Therefore, please note that smoking is not permitted in any of the College buildings or in College vehicles. Smoking is also not permitted immediately outside the entrances to College buildings or near to windows and air intake units. Staff working at associated NHS trust sites or other premises should adhere to whatever policy is in place at these locations. For a full copy of the College policy please visit: <a href="http://www.kcl.ac.uk/content/1/c4/63/43/SmokingPolicyv2.doc">http://www.kcl.ac.uk/content/1/c4/63/43/SmokingPolicyv2.doc</a>
<u>References</u>	All Institute appointments are subject to receipt of satisfactory references and, where appropriate, confirmation of qualifications.
<u>Ticket Loan</u>	An interest free Season Ticket Loan is available for staff.
<u>Canteen</u>	The Institute operates a staff canteen and members of staff also have access to dining facilities at the Maudsley Hospital.
<u>Nursery</u>	Institute staff may apply for places at the on-site Nursery for their children.
<u>Disclosure</u>	King's College London aims to promote equality of opportunity for all and welcomes applications from diverse candidates. All candidates are required to disclose whether they have a current conviction. This vacancy has been defined as a 'position of trust' and is therefore exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act (1974). As such, shortlisted candidates will be required to declare full details of any criminal background, regardless of how old a conviction may be and the successful candidate will be required to apply for a standard (or enhanced) Disclosure (a criminal records check) from the Criminal Records Bureau. A criminal record will only be taken into account for recruitment purposes, where the conviction is relevant to the position being applied for, and where this is the case, will not necessarily bar candidates from employment. Any decision will depend on the precise nature of the work and the circumstances and background to the offence(s). The same procedure will be followed for College staff applying internally for a vacancy.

NB This information is provided as guidance only, and does not form part of the employment contract.

6. **APPLICATIONS**

A CV including the names of two referees accompanied with a covering letter and an equal opportunities statement should be emailed to [vacancies@iop.kcl.ac.uk](mailto:vacancies@iop.kcl.ac.uk) or send to the address below

HR Office, Box 007,  
Institute of Psychiatry,  
De Crespigny Park, Denmark Hill,  
London SE5 8AF

**Closing date for applications: 13<sup>th</sup> July 2007**  
**Please quote reference number 07/R68.**

Candidates who would like to discuss the post further are invited to contact Prof Ulrike Schmidt on 020 7848 0181 or Prof Trudie Chalder on 0207 848 0406

***Pay and Modernisation***

*Please note that the College is currently undergoing a job evaluation exercise under the Pay and Modernisation Programme. As a result, the grades that are applied currently to all jobs will be reviewed as will the salary payable for each job. The salary review gives no commitment to a salary increase.*

*We very much regret that due to limited resources and the large number of applications we currently receive, we are only able to inform shortlisted candidates of the outcome of their application. If you do not hear from us within four weeks of the closing date, please assume that you have been unsuccessful on this occasion. We would like to assure you, however, that every application we receive is considered in detail and a shortlist only drawn up after careful reference to a detailed person specification. If therefore, your application is not successful, we hope that you will not be discouraged and will still apply for other suitable vacancies at IOP as and when they are advertised*

*Equality of opportunity is College policy*