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Research Fellow

Department	Centre for Excellence for Children's Care and Protection (CELCIS) (www.celcis.org/)		
Faculty	Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (www.strath.ac.uk/humanities/)		
Staff Category	Research	Reference No	823599
Reports To	Head of Department/Institute	Grade	8
Salary Range	£46,735 - £57,422	Contract Type	Fixed Term (12 months)
FTE	35 hours/week	Closing Date	24/07/2026
Working Arrangements	Hybrid. The standard requirement across the University is that at least three days per week (based on IFTE) will be spent working on-site (with flexibility as appropriate).		
Work Location	John Anderson Campus, Glasgow City Centre		



Job Advert

Are you passionate about research to improve the lives of children and families who need the support of services? We're looking for an experienced, creative researcher with a track record of leading quantitative and qualitative research to join CELCIS as a Research Fellow.

As a leading improvement and innovation centre in Scotland, at CELCIS we work to improve the lives of children and young people in need of care and protection, and their families and carers. We do this by supporting people and organisations responsible for their care to make changes in services and in the practices and skills they use, all based on the needs, experiences and rights of children and young people.

This exciting role is linked to range of research agendas including those to meet the aspirations of The Promise of the Independent Care Review, public sector reform in Scotland, and the Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC) approach.

The focus of the role is on supporting the strategic objectives of the organisation and its sustainability through further developing and supporting our research agenda, to improve lifelong outcomes for children, young people, their families and carers across Scotland. This will include income generation via research-related funding, supporting and developing other researchers, participating in and developing networks to foster research collaborations, and working with relevant stakeholders, including Scottish Government, to inform the development of research objectives linked to policy and practice.

Our Research Fellow will need to take a flexible and responsive approach within a fast-paced environment where needs can change and develop rapidly. You will also have a strong understanding of what it takes influence policy and practice through high-quality research. Do you have a track record of working with partners across the higher education, public and voluntary sector? Are you able to communicate complex ideas to a variety of audiences and to write and review a range of research outputs using different formats and channels to make an impact? If so, this could be the role for you.

This role would suit candidates who have a PhD in a relevant social science discipline or equivalent research experience in a professional context and who are able to lead programmes of research. Experience of working as a principal investigator within quantitative and qualitative research projects, successfully applying for and managing research funding, and participating in and developing networks to foster research collaborations are essential for this role.

Change is happening. Be part of it. Together we can make things better for children, young people and their families and carers. Apply now.

<https://www.celcis.org>

Funding for the post: Like for all colleagues in the team, this post is initially funded for 12 months, with the potential for further funding. CELCIS has received funding in this way from Scottish Government since 2010.

Research Starter Grant

The Faculty of HaSS offers a Research Starter Grant to all new full-time, non-professorial, academic staff within the Faculty. The Grant may be used for any purpose that assists staff to establish their Strathclyde research career and to assist in attracting additional funding for research from external sources. Any grant awarded will be to a maximum of £10,000, and the planned expenditure of the award is normally for a period of 18 months. Departments may, however, add to the value of this award.

Job Description

Brief Outline of Job:

The Research Fellow will play a strategic role in leading and developing high-quality research that supports CELCIS to improve outcomes for children, young people and families in Scotland. The post focuses on designing and delivering impactful qualitative and quantitative research aligned with national policy priorities and organisational strategy.

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The role involves generating research funding, leading programmes of work, and building strong partnerships with academic, public and voluntary sector stakeholders, including government. The postholder will contribute to influencing policy and practice through evidence, while also supporting and mentoring other researchers within the team.

Working in a fast-paced and changing environment, the Research Fellow will communicate complex findings clearly to a wide range of audiences and ensure research outputs are relevant, timely and impactful.

Main Activities/Responsibilities:

1. Engage as an independent researcher in leading and contributing to research projects which support the aims and strategy of the organisation.
2. Develop and lead a programme of quantitative and qualitative research work, drawing on the knowledge and expertise of colleagues, and responding to relevant policy needs and research gaps, which aims to contribute to improving the lives of children, young people and their families.
3. Apply as principal or co-investigator to appropriate bodies, for research funding and manage grants awarded.
4. Participate in and develop external networks to foster research collaborations, to inform the development of research objectives and to identify potential sources of funding.
5. Supervise and coach other researchers and data analysts within CELCIS and support their professional development.
6. Write, co-write, review and refine a range of research and data outputs to ensure quality, timeliness, relevance and impact.
7. Employ and promote approaches to research, evaluation and learning that facilitate the engagement of stakeholders, including children, young people, parents, carers and practitioners.
8. Communicate complex ideas to a variety of audiences using high level skills and a range of different media.
9. Promote and support the organisation's mission, vision, values and principles of governance by personal example and quality of contribution.

Person Specification

Educational and/or Professional Qualifications

(E=Essential, i.e. a candidate must meet all essential criteria to be considered for selection, D=Desirable)

E1 PhD in relevant social science discipline OR equivalent research experience in a professional context

D1 Professional qualification in a relevant discipline

Experience

E2 Knowledge of qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods research gained through significant experience of conducting or managing various research within a practice relevant environment

E3 Experience of engaging, co-ordinating, and supporting the involvement of a wide range of relevant stakeholders in research.

E4 Knowledge and experience of undertaking research relating to children, young people and families in need of support, care and protection.

E5 Experience of leading the development of research proposals as principal investigator, including experience of successful research grant applications.

E6 Experience of designing and conducting social research and evaluation in a complex area of policy or practice, with a strong track record of methodological flexibility and adaptability.

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D2 Experience of analysing large (linked) administrative datasets and/or proficiency in the use of R to analyse large datasets

Job Related Skills and Achievements

E7 Advanced qualitative research skills, including (but not limited to) design and implementation of qualitative research projects, qualitative data collection methods, and the use of appropriate analyses approaches such as thematic analysis.

D3 Advanced quantitative research skills, including (but not limited to) design and implementation of quantitative research projects, use of quantitative data collection methods (e.g. survey), and the use of SPSS and/or R statistical analysis software.

E8 Networking and influencing skills with the ability to develop, nurture and sustain good working relationships across the full range of relevant stakeholders, including those with lived experience.

E9 Track record of producing high quality research or evaluation outputs based on relevant evidence.

E10 Very good teamwork and interpersonal skills, with the ability to listen, engage and influence; ability to build relationships across CELCIS and with different stakeholders.

E11 Excellent oral and written communication skills, particularly on complex or sensitive issues.

Personal Attributes

E12 A commitment to the inclusion of voices, experience and participation of children, families, carers and other key stakeholders.

E13 Demonstrate reflective practice and ability to give and receive constructive personal feedback.

E14 A high tolerance for uncertainty and ambiguity, and a flexible and responsive approach that supports effective contribution within a fast-paced environment where needs can change and develop rapidly.

Other Relevant Factors

Application Procedure

Applicants should visit Strathclyde's vacancies portal and complete an online application form including the name of three referees who will be contacted without further permission, unless you indicate you would prefer otherwise. Applicants should also submit a Curriculum Vitae and a covering letter detailing the knowledge, skills and experience you think make you the right candidate for the job. Applicants should also complete the Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form.

University of Strathclyde encourages the recruitment of disabled and neurodivergent candidates. If you need any reasonable adjustments during the recruitment process, please let us know. You are welcome to submit a paper application or a CV instead of the online application form by contacting us at humanresources@strath.ac.uk.

Interviews

Formal interviews for this post will be held on Thursday, 6 August 2026

The University is a Disability Confident Employer and operates a guaranteed interview scheme for disabled candidates who meet all the essential criteria for the post that they are applying for.

Other Information

Further information on the application process and working at Strathclyde can be found on our website (<http://www.strath.ac.uk/hr/workforus>).

Informal enquiries about the post can be directed to Heather Ottaway, Head of Evidence & Innovation (heather.ottaway@strath.ac.uk).

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Conditions of Employment

Conditions of employment relating to the Research staff category can be found at: [Conditions of Employment](#).

Rewards and Benefits

Our comprehensive benefits package, including generous annual leave, family-friendly benefits, flexible work options, and a commitment to continuous learning, reflects our appreciation for the valuable contributions of our colleagues.

We understand that each staff member has unique priorities and lifestyles, so our diverse benefits ensure there is something for everyone, details of which can be found on our [Rewards and Benefits webpage](#).

- **Financial Rewards:** We provide attractive financial packages, including competitive salaries, relocation support for employees and a generous pension scheme, with university contributions of 14.5%.
- **Work-Life Balance:** We are dedicated to enhancing healthy work-life balance for our employees. We offer generous annual leave, an additional annual leave purchase option, flexible and agile work arrangements.
 - Annual Leave: Generous entitlement of 27 days (Grade 5 and below) or 31 days (Grade 6 and above), in addition to 11 public holidays and University closure days.
 - Additional annual leave purchase: Option to request purchase of 2 weeks' additional annual leave per year.
 - Flexible and agile working: The University provides flexible work arrangements. You can request arrangements that fit you and your role, such as hybrid, part-time, compressed hours, term-time, adjusted shifts, staggered hours. These requests can be made from the first day of your employment.
- **Family Friendly Benefits:** We offer a variety of enhanced family-friendly benefits to support our employees in balancing work and family responsibilities. These include Maternity Leave, Paternity/Maternity Support, Adoption Leave, Shared Parental Leave, Parental Leave, Carers Leave and support, Family Friendly Research & Scholarship Leave, and access to our on-campus nursery.
- **Career Development:** Our commitment to personal development is reflected in initiatives such as professional courses, subsidised educational programs, coaching and mentoring, leadership development, secondment opportunities, and access to our library.
- **Health & Wellbeing:** We place high importance on the safety, wellbeing, and health of all our staff and offer discounted Strathclyde Sport membership, an Employee Assistance Programme (EAP), Occupational Health Service, and Cycle to Work scheme.
- **Recognition Awards:** At Strathclyde, we place a strong emphasis on acknowledging and rewarding our staff's commitment and exceptional contributions. This is demonstrated through our Long-Service Awards and our Values-based Strathclyde Medals.

Probation

Where applicable, the successful applicant will be required to serve a 12 month probationary period.

Pension

The successful applicant will be eligible to join Universities' Superannuation Scheme. Further information regarding this scheme is available from [Payroll and Pensions](#).

Relocation

Where applicable, the University offers a relocation package to support new employees who meet the eligibility criteria. The relocation package is offered as a contribution towards costs incurred, and is designed to be flexible, allowing staff to

use the financial support available in the way that will be most helpful to them. Further details are outlined in the [Relocation Policy](#).

Equality and Diversity

The University of Strathclyde is a socially progressive institution that strives to ensure equality of opportunity and celebrates the diversity of its student and staff community. Strathclyde is people-oriented and collaborative, offering a supportive and flexible working culture with a deep commitment to our [equality, diversity and inclusion charters, initiatives, groups and networks](#).

We strongly encourage applications from Black, Asian and minority ethnicity, women, LGBT+, disabled candidates and candidates from lower socio-economic groups and care-experienced backgrounds.

The University currently holds an Athena Swan **Silver award**, recognising our commitment to advancing women's careers in science, technology, engineering, maths and medicine (STEMM) employment in academia.

University Values

The University's Values capture what we're all about: who we are, what we believe in and what we stand for. [Our Values](#) have been derived from how we act and how we expect to be treated as part of Strathclyde.

In delivering **our People Strategy**, we will contribute, act, and make decisions guided by these values.

- **People-oriented:** committed to our staff and students, providing opportunities, and investing in their development.
- **Bold:** confident and challenging in what we do, and supportive of embracing appropriate and managed risk in our decision-making.
- **Innovative:** focused on discovering and applying knowledge with impact and encouraging creative thinking and new ideas.
- **Collaborative:** working together, with our colleagues and external partners, with integrity and in an open, respectful way.
- **Ambitious:** for our institution, staff and students as well as supporting the ambitions of our partners.



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Conditions of Employment

Research Staff

1. GENERAL CONDITIONS

Members of staff are subject to the Charter and Statutes and the Ordinances and Regulations of the University, published in the Calendar, and to any amendments or additions thereto approved by the University Court and, in the case of the Charter and Statutes, the Privy Council. Staff are also expected to familiarise themselves with, and adhere to, general University policies and procedures, as published on University web pages.

The University Court recognises Strathclyde Universities and College Union (SUCU) as the sole body with which it will negotiate and consult on all collective issues concerned with the terms and conditions of employment of Research Staff. Such terms and conditions may be varied by the University Court after negotiation and consultation with SUCU.

Each member of staff is responsible for the proper performance of allocated duties to the person or persons specified in the member of staff's letter of appointment and any accompanying papers.

The University is committed to ensuring that its business is conducted in an open and transparent manner and will take all appropriate steps to address risks of bribery or corruption. Members of staff are required at all times to act honestly and with integrity and to safeguard the resources for which they are responsible. The University has in place a robust Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblowing) Policy to enable concerns to be brought to its attention. This is available at www.strath.ac.uk/policies/. Other relevant policies, e.g. Fraud Prevention and Conflicts of Interests, can also be found on the University's website.

Any member of staff may at any time be exposed to commercially sensitive information, information related to potentially valuable intellectual property or information which may otherwise be of a confidential nature. This information, which could be found anywhere in the University, may be written or disclosed orally, can include information of a commercial or technical nature, and may be owned by the University or by third parties. The University requires all employees to keep any such information confidential in the first instance and not disclose, publish or otherwise disseminate it without prior consent of the University. Such confidentiality obligations are commonplace and in the commercial interests of the University. When in doubt advice should always be sought from Research and Knowledge Exchange Services prior to disclosure.

The University operates probationary periods for new staff, the duration of which will be specified in individual letters of appointment. The normal probation period for posts in this staff category is 9 months for those at grades 6 and 7, and 12 months for grades 8 and above. Further guidance on probationary procedures is published at www.strath.ac.uk/staff/policies/hr.

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Further information on the terms and conditions specified in this document and other staffing policies and procedures can also be found at www.strath.ac.uk/staff/policies/hr.

2. SALARY

Appointments are made at an appropriate salary point on the University's grading structure, with initial placing determined according to qualifications and experience. Increments are paid to staff on the 12 month anniversary of their appointment. Where this is not the first of the month, the increment will be paid on the first of the month directly

after the 12 month anniversary. This allows 1 progression to the next point on the salary scale until the top guaranteed point of the scale is reached.

Salaries are paid directly to staff members nominated bank account, normally on the second last working day of the month.

3. HOURS OF WORK

Working time is that required to fulfil the duties of the post. The University Court recognises that research staff carry out these duties in a variety of ways appropriate to the nature of the research activity, but expects regular contact to take place between the research staff employee and the supervisor/granholder (where these positions are occupied by different individuals) during normal working hours on week days. There are exceptions to this pattern which may involve contact at other locations or in the evenings, or at weekends, but these arrangement will be made with the agreement of the member of staff concerned.

Duties may, by arrangement with Head of Department/School/Director, include some teaching associated with the post (up to a maximum of 40 hours per semester) for which no additional payment will be made.

Additional work which does not fall within the scope of that described above may by arrangement attract payment which must be authorised and processed through the payroll.

4. HOLIDAYS

Annual leave entitlement is 31 days per year to be taken by agreement with the line manager. For staff members working on a part-time basis, holidays will be calculated on a pro-rata basis.

In addition to annual leave there is an entitlement to 11 public holidays per year which should be taken on days that the University is closed for this purpose. The University presently closes for 4 additional days over the Christmas and New Year period. **These additional days count against the annual leave entitlement.**

For staff members working on a part-time basis, public holiday entitlement will be calculated on a pro-rata basis.

Annual leave and public holiday entitlements should be taken in the leave year to which they relate. Up to 5 days leave can be carried forward into the new leave year subject to line management agreement. In exceptional circumstances, Heads of Department/School/Director may approve carry forward of accrued annual leave in excess of 5 days.

The University's expectation is that staff take all accrued holidays prior to their termination date. If staff have exceeded their entitlement the University will deduct an equivalent number of days pay from final salary payments.

5. SICKNESS ABSENCE

During any period of absence through illness or injury provided the appropriate notification and certification procedures have been followed the University will pay a member of staff (having taken account of the aggregate of all periods of absence due to illness during the twelve months immediately preceding the first day of the current absence) as follows:

Period of Continuous Employment at start of absence from work	Full Pay	Half Pay
Less than 1 year	1 month	1 month
1 year but less than 2 years	2 months	2 months
2 years but less than 3 years	4 months	4 months
3 years but less than 5 years	5 months	5 months
5 years or more	6 months	6 months

In order to manage the University's sick pay scheme the University requires to maintain sickness absence records on individual members of staff. When making payments after the expiry of statutory sick pay the University will deduct an amount equivalent to any benefit normally payable by the Department of Work and Pensions. For full details on the general University policy in this area please refer to the Sickness Absence Management Policy at www.strath.ac.uk/staff/policies/hr.

6. PENSIONS

If you are under age 75 at the date your appointment commences you will automatically become a member of the pension scheme operated by the University — the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS). You will be admitted to the career revalued benefits scheme called the USS Retirement Income Builder; the contribution rate that currently applies is 6.1% of pensionable salary. A threshold applies to the maximum salary that counts towards the USS Retirement Income Builder. The current threshold from 1 April 2026 is £74,208 per year. Contributions based on salary above the monthly equivalent rate of the threshold are paid to the defined contribution section of the scheme called the USS Investment Builder. Please use the following link to access information, including the USS Member Guide: <https://www.uss.co.uk/for-members/youre-a-new-joiner>. The scheme booklet is called 'Your Guide to the Universities Superannuation Scheme'.

The University operates a salary exchange arrangement, Pensions Plus, for members of the USS. Pensions Plus enables pension contributions to be made in a manner so that both employees and the University can benefit from available National Insurance Contribution savings. You will be automatically included in Pensions Plus, provided it does not adversely affect your take-home pay or your ability to claim certain state benefits. If your earnings fall below the Pension Plus pay protection limit you will be opted out of Pension Plus. This will not affect your membership of the USS.

New members of staff may opt out of USS within three months of taking up appointment and will then be treated as if they had never been a member of the scheme. After three months members of staff who wish to withdraw from USS during their employment will be required to give a minimum of 28 days' notice in writing to the University. Any member of staff who wishes to opt out should contact the Pensions Section, Finance, in the first instance (pensions@strath.ac.uk). Please note that if you are a member of Pensions Plus and withdraw from USS with less than two years of membership, or cease employment with the University and have less than two years of USS membership, the option of a refund of pension contributions will not be available to you. Instead, USS must provide you with a pension benefit that is payable from your Normal Pension Age. Regardless of whether you participate in Pensions Plus, if you are a member of the pension scheme for two years or more you are not entitled to a refund of pension contributions on leaving the scheme, you will be entitled to a pension benefit.

The University reserves the right to alter or withdraw Pensions Plus as it sees fit or as required to comply with legislative changes. Withdrawal or amendment of Pensions Plus will not affect your membership of USS. If you do not wish to participate in Pensions Plus but wish to remain in

the pension scheme please contact the Pensions Team who will provide you with a non-participation form.

Information regarding pension scheme membership can be found on the [Pensions SharePoint \(staff login required\)](#). Full information regarding USS can be found on the USS website – www.uss.co.uk.

7. PLACE OF WORK AND RESIDENCE

Members of staff will be based on the John Anderson Campus, unless otherwise stated in the letter of appointment. The Department/School in which the post is initially placed will be specified in the letter of appointment although there will be an expectation to work at such other places as required in the course of employment.

If the need arises for members of staff to work outside the UK for a period (or periods) of more than one month then such arrangements will be subject to mutual agreement. Members of staff would then be provided with a statement in advance setting out the terms covering such periods of employment.

The University does not normally place specific restrictions upon the place of residence of members of staff. All staff are, however, expected to reside in a location which is compatible with the satisfactory fulfilment of all the duties associated with their appointment.

8. CONSULTANCY/FURTHER ACTIVITIES

To support the strategic objectives of the University and to facilitate individual professional development, the University encourages staff to engage in professional activities with outside bodies related to their field of work. In many cases, such activity will be approved on the basis that it represents University knowledge exchange activity and should therefore be treated as part of the individual's overall workload and managed through the University's systems. It is also recognised that there will be some cases where an activity is entirely separate from the University and should thus be notified/approved as a personal business activity. For further information please refer to the "University Procedure in relation to Work for Outside Bodies including Consultancies", which forms part of the employment contract and can be accessed at www.strath.ac.uk/staff/policies/hr.

9. DISCIPLINARY AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

Further information on the University's disciplinary and grievance procedure can also be found at www.strath.ac.uk/staff/policies/hr or on request from Human Resources.

10. NOTICE AND TERMINATION

Members of staff are employed on the conditions indicated in individual letters of appointment and any accompanying papers. The University is not obliged to give notice of termination or continue any employment beyond the end of that period. Where the period of the contract of employment is for one year or less it may be terminated short of the fixed term period by one months notice on either side. Where the period of the contract of employment is for more than one year, or where there have been a further contract or series of contracts immediately consecutive, the employment may be terminated short of the fixed term period by three months' notice on either side, except during the probationary period when the notice period is one month.

If the appointment is for a fixed term it will expire at the end of the period without the necessity for notice.

Revised April 2026