

Implementation Research Fellow

Department	Centre for Excellence for Children's Care and Protection (CELCIS) (http://www.celcis.org/)		
Faculty	Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (www.strath.ac.uk/humanities/)		
Staff Category	Research	Reference No	440990
Reports To	Head of Evidence and Innovation	Grade:	8
Salary Range:	£42,149 - £51,799	Contract Type:	Fixed Term (12 months)
FTE	1	Closing Date	09/05/2022

Job Advert

We're looking for an experienced, creative researcher with track record in delivering programmes of improvement to join CELCIS as our new Implementation 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, innovative new role brings together high quality research and evaluation with our improvement and implementation activities. These are linked to range of research agendas, projects and strategic objectives including those to meet the aspirations of The Promise of the Independent Care Review, incorporation of the UNCRC into Scots law, and the Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC) approach.

The focus is on developing our understanding of the role and impact of improvement and implementation support to improve lifelong outcomes for infants, children and young people; and work to identify, design, evaluate and sustain transformational change in support and services for children, young people, their families and carers across Scotland.

Do you have a strong understanding of children's needs and their development? Do you have a track record of working with partners across the public and voluntary sector? Have you worked to embed evidence-based approaches and practices to help professionals and services adapt and change? Are you able to communicate complex ideas to a variety of audiences and to write and review a range of research and evaluation outputs using different media 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, work as a principal or co-investigator, apply for and manage funding grants, participate in and develop networks to foster research collaborations, and are used to informing the development of research objectives.

Our Implementation Research Fellow will need to take flexible and responsive approach within a fast-paced environment where needs can change and develop rapidly, and have a strong understanding of what it takes to lead and manage complex change including in public services.

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

All CELCIS staff are working remotely at home until the University has ensured it is safe and essential to work in the office (we are based in the Curran Building at the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow). Flexibility for blended working arrangements (from home, in the office, and travel to work with local partners as required for the role) is available.

Funding for the post: Like all the team, the post is funded for 12 months, with a further 2 years of funding indicated by Scottish Government. CELCIS has received funding in this way from Scottish Government since 2010 where we agree our funding level every year, as well as agreeing the indicative level for the next two years.

Job Description

Brief Outline of Job:

This is an innovative role which links high quality research and evaluation with improvement and implementation activities to identify, design, evaluate and sustain transformational change. The role will involve supporting local areas to improve services for infants, children and young people in need of care and protection and linking implementation activities to research agendas and projects to meet the aspirations of the Promise, UNCRC and GIRFEC.

Main Activities/Responsibilities:

1.	Engage as an independent researcher in undertaking research and evaluation projects to support the organisation's aims. This will include all aspects of the evaluative research process such as scoping literature reviews, measurement development with useability testing, mining and extraction of monitoring data from existing systems, conduct of interviews and focus groups, and data analysis and reporting in different forms.
2	Lead on research and evaluation to develop our understanding of the role, value, and impact of improvement support to improve lifelong outcomes for infants, children and young people, based on a strong understanding of children's needs and their development.
3.	Contribute to a programme of evaluation research and data work, drawing on the knowledge and expertise of colleagues to identify research, review and evaluation needs.
4.	Lead and support the use of robust approaches to research and evaluation within CELCIS's improvement and implementation programmes.
5.	Lead programmes of work with local areas and other key stakeholder organisations through effective partnership working, modelling and demonstrating an understanding of the complexity and challenge of the work.
6.	Lead and support local areas and teams to embed evidence-based approaches and practices in a planned, supported and phased way.
7	Supervise other researchers and data analysts and when necessary, support the wider CELCIS team to be involved with research and evaluation.
8..	Model and demonstrate excellent ability in the use of data, facilitation, coaching and a willingness to being coached by others.
9.	Write, co-write, review and refine a range of research and evaluation outputs and internal monitoring activities to ensure quality, timeliness, relevance and impact.
10.	Model and work in ways that ensure that the views and experiences of infants, children, young people and their families are a key driver for change.
11.	Communicate complex ideas to a variety of audiences using high level skills and a range of different media.
12.	Participate in and develop external networks to foster research collaborations, to inform the development of research objectives and to identify potential sources of funding.
13..	Apply as principal or co-investigator to appropriate bodies, for research funding and manage grants awarded.
14.	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

D2 Relevant qualification in Active Implementation or leading and managing complex change

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 Producing high quality research or evaluation outputs based on relevant evidence
- E4 Demonstrable track record in delivering programmes of improvement and change activities within and across Getting it right for every child agencies
- E5 A strong track record of influencing the work of others through a range of workforce development opportunities such as consultancy, leading implementation projects, partnership working, facilitation attending to implementing and sustaining change
- E6 Experience of and ability to provide and to receive constructive feedback

Job Related Skills and Achievements

- E7 Ability to develop research and evaluation proposals including experience of contributing to grant applications
- E8 Ability to work as part of a team and lead on specific areas of work
- E9 Advanced research and evaluation skills, including competence in data collection, analysis and producing reports
- E10 Excellent oral and written communication skills, particularly on complex or sensitive issues

Personal Attributes

- E11 Ability to plan and organise research and evaluation projects effectively, to ensure that deadlines and standards are met, with some guidance from senior colleagues when required
- E12 Ability to effectively engage with a wide range of strategic level colleagues internally and externally and to build strong working relationships that support the achievement of objectives
- E13 A flexible and responsive approach that supports effective contribution within a fast paced environment where needs can change and develop rapidly

Other Relevant Factors

- E14 Suitability to work with vulnerable infants, children and young people as indicated by possession of an appropriate PVG certificate
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Application Procedure

Applicants are required to complete an application form including the name of three referees who will be contacted without further permission, unless you indicate that 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.

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 Robert Porter, Research Lead (robert.porter@strath.ac.uk).

Conditions of Employment

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

Rewards and Benefits

Our staff have access to a wide range of outstanding benefits that include financial rewards, family friendly and wellbeing benefits and career development opportunities, details of which can be found [here](#).

PVG Check

This position involves regulated work, making it a legislative requirement that the successful candidate becomes a member of the Protection of Vulnerable Groups Scheme. If appointed, employment with the University will not be confirmed, until membership of the Scheme has been received. The successful applicant will be precluded from working with protected groups until that time.

Pre-employment health screening

An offer of appointment will be subject to a medical assessment by Occupational Health. An individual who accepts an offer of employment must complete a confidential medical questionnaire and forward it to the Occupational Health Nurse within 5 days of receipt. If further information is required the individual may be contacted by the OHN or a Medical Advisor and a personal appointment with the individual may be arranged. An unconditional contract of employment will not be issued until Human Resources receives confirmation that applicant is fit to undertake the duties of the post.

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 the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) in Scotland. 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.

Interviews

Formal interviews for this post will be held on 31/05/2022.

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+, and disabled candidates and candidates from lower socio-economic groups and care-experienced backgrounds.

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.



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/publicinterestdisclosure. 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 <http://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/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 eleven public holidays per year which should be taken on days that the University is closed for this purpose. The University presently closes for four 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 five 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 five 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 9.8% of pensionable salary. A threshold applies to the maximum salary that counts towards the USS Retirement Income Builder. The current threshold from 1 April 2022 is £40,000 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 pages of the University's website. 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/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/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 2022