



CLINICAL RESEARCH ASSISTANT (4 POSTS)

(3-year contract; Payclass 06)

Centre for Public Mental Health

Department of Psychiatry and Mental Health

Faculty of Health Sciences

The Centre for Public Mental Health in the Department of Psychiatry and Mental Health has been awarded a research grant: Improving Adolescent mental health by reducing the impact of poverty (ALIVE). The aim of the study is to develop and pilot-test an intervention that addresses poverty and strengthens self-regulation, thus preventing adolescent depression and anxiety in urban low- and middle-income settings. The research project is funded by the Wellcome Trust, led by King's College London, with co-Principal Investigators and Collaborators across different academic and research partner institutions in Europe, South America, Asia and Africa. The South African component is based in the Cape Metropolitan area and will involve (1) developing a theoretical model of the causal mechanisms linking poverty, self-regulation and depression and anxiety among adolescents (age 10-19 years); (2) collaboratively developing a multi-component selective prevention intervention targeting self-regulation and skills for academic and employment success among adolescents at high risk of developing depression or anxiety living in urban poverty in Colombia, Nepal and South Africa; (3) adapting and validating key instruments to measure eligibility, implementation, mediators, and outcomes of the intervention; and (4) undertaking a 4-arm pilot randomised controlled trial of the selective prevention intervention in each site.

The main purpose of these positions will be to conduct fieldwork for the various work-packages of the ALIVE project. Responsibilities include: recruitment of participants, qualitative and quantitative data collection (i.e. interviews, focus group discussions, surveys), research administration (including quality checking and follow ups), regular reporting and record-keeping according to study protocols.

This is a full-time 3-year fixed term (T2) contract, for four Clinical research assistant positions to start in March/April 2023. Clinical research assistants will be selected according to the project's language requirements for data collection teams to be fully bilingual in (1) English-isiXhosa and (2) English-Afrikaans.

Requirements include:

- Undergraduate degree in a relevant field (e.g. psychology, public health, social science).
- At least 3 years of fieldwork (data collection) experience working in public health or psychology research in low resource settings.
- Experience in conducting interviews and focus groups.
- Technological literacy in using devices (smartphones, tablets).
- Fluent in English and Xhosa or English and Afrikaans
- Excellent ability to build interpersonal relationships
- Excellent communication skills (written and verbal)
- Excellent organizational skills
- Flexibility and strong teamwork/collaboration skills
- Highly attentive to detail

The following will be advantageous:

- Specific experience or interest in adolescent health, adolescent mental health, poverty or depression and anxiety.
- Experience in cognitive testing of tools and neuropsychological tests
- Previous experience working within a large research team
- Experience of Redcap, ODK, Mobenzi or other real time digital data collection platforms

Responsibilities include:

- Screening and recruitment of participants (adolescents and parents)
- Qualitative and quantitative data collection (interviews, cognitive testing of tools and neuropsychological tests, focus group discussions, surveys)
- Research administration (including quality checks, follow ups, documentation)
- Routine reporting on fieldwork progress
- Supporting research data collection activities

The annual remuneration package is negotiable between R278,817 - 319,217 dependent on skills and experience.

To apply, please e-mail the completed [UCT Application form](#) and all other relevant documentation as indicated on the form, to Gillian Hanslo, Department of Psychiatry and Mental Health, Staff Recruitment and Selection, University of Cape Town, Rondebosch, 7700. E-mail: gillian.hanslo@uct.ac.za; Telephone: +27 21 4066663; Faculty website: www.psychiatry.uct.ac.za ; Centre for Public Mental Health website: www.cpmh.org.za

- The application form can also be downloaded at <http://forms.uct.ac.za/hr201.doc>)

An application which does not comply with the above requirements will be regarded as incomplete. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Reference number: E23230

Closing date: 15 March 2023

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UCT reserves the right not to appoint.