



**UNIVERSITY OF LINCOLN
JOB DESCRIPTION**

JOB TITLE	Postdoctoral Research Associate (PDRA) in Geospatial Mental Health and Wellbeing				
DEPARTMENT	Lincoln Institute for Rural and Coastal Health				
LOCATION	Lincoln Campuses				
JOB NUMBER	CHS293	GRADE	7	DATE	March 2026
REPORTS TO	Dr Harriet Moore				

CONTEXT

At the heart of one of the world’s great historic cities, research at the University of Lincoln engages in transforming lives and communities. In recent years the city has seen significant investment in redeveloping areas of the city centre and the University was awarded the prestigious Queen’s Anniversary Prize for Higher Education in 2023.

The Lincolnshire Unit for Mental Health Research (LUMHR) will be the county’s first integrated and multidisciplinary unit dedicated to applied mental health research in rural, coastal, and small urban-deprived settings. Funded through the NIHR Mental Health Research Group programme, LUMHR builds on a successful NIHR Mental Health Development Award that established the region’s top mental health research priorities through inclusive community engagement and network development. The Unit brings together academic, clinical, community, and lived-experience partners to address persistent mental health inequalities and strengthen the regional research ecosystem.

The post-holder will be based within the Lincoln Institute for Rural and Coastal Health (LIRCH), the country’s first integrated institute dedicated to rural and coastal health research. LIRCH’s expanding research environment provides a strong foundation for the geospatial analytics central to this role. Reporting to Dr Harriet Moore, the post-holder will contribute specialist geospatial expertise to LUMHR, mapping access barriers, digital exclusion, social isolation, and service pathways across Lincolnshire. Working closely with NHS, local authority, and data partners, the role will generate spatial evidence to inform research, lead the development of a spatial dashboard visualising data, and support service design towards LUMHR’s aim of improving mental health outcomes for underserved populations.

JOB PURPOSE

This post will be an independent researcher working with a significant degree of autonomy under the direction of Dr Harriet Moore and the LUMHR Connect Theme Leads. The post-holder will contribute to the design and delivery of geospatial and quantitative research across the Connect theme, including the development of spatial datasets, analysis of access barriers, modelling of rural and coastal inequalities, development of a bespoke interactive dashboard, and generation of actionable insights to inform mental health research and service planning.

They will be expected to plan and sustain a programme of research activity within the Connect theme, produce high-quality research outputs, and work closely with partners across academic, clinical, voluntary-sector and community organisations, including NHS and Integrated Care System analytics teams. Delivering the programme of research will require competencies with appropriate geospatial software (e.g., ArcGIS, QGIS), and coding (e.g.,

Python, R). The role will involve supporting and, where appropriate, training and collaborating with practitioner researchers, peer researchers, and students contributing to the programme.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

Programme of Research

- Undertake a programme of geospatial and quantitative research under the direction of Dr Harriet Moore and the Connect Theme Leads, demonstrating a significant degree of autonomy.
- Plan, implement, and contribute to research activities across the Connect theme, including pre-and-post processing of multi-datasets, development of an interactive geospatial dashboard, contribute to the development of a data observatory, and produce data visualisations for dissemination.
- Support collaborative research activity within the Connect theme, working alongside academic colleagues, NHS and ICS analytics teams, local authority partners, practitioner researchers, peer researchers, and community stakeholders.
- Contribute to the development and refinement of innovative geospatial and mixed-methods approaches suited to rural and coastal contexts, including modelling service access cold-spots, crisis-entry patterns, and socio-environmental intersectionality.
- Develop and maintain strong collaborative links with academic, clinical, public health, community, and voluntary-sector partners, and contribute to joint programmes of research activity and system-facing analyses as appropriate.
- Participate in LUMHR planning activities, internal meetings, and relevant committees, supporting the development of the Unit's evidence base and analytical strategy.

Research Outputs and Academic Development

- Lead and contribute to high-quality research outputs, including journal articles, reports, briefings for partners, and contributions to public engagement materials.
- Present findings at internal seminars, stakeholder meetings, national/international conferences, and community dissemination events, helping to develop the external reputation of both the post-holder and LUMHR.
- Engage in professional development activities, including training, mentoring, and opportunities for skills enhancement, in line with LUMHR's focus on building the next generation of mental health researchers.

Project Management

- Plan and manage research tasks, ensuring timely delivery of work packages across the five-year programme.
- Maintain accurate documentation, data management and ethical governance standards, and reproducible workflows in accordance with University and NIHR requirements.
- Coordinate activities involving interdisciplinary colleagues, practitioner researchers, peer researchers, and community contributors, ensuring inclusive and transparent processes.
- Support the organisation of engagement activities, workshops, and community events.

Liaison and Networking

- Build and maintain effective working relationships with LUMHR partners, including ICS analytics teams, LIRCH colleagues, NHS organisations, voluntary and community sector partners, people with lived experience, and academic collaborators.

- Participate in internal LUMHR research meetings, cross-theme activities, and CPD opportunities, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration.

Supervision and Support

- Provide methodological guidance and collaborative support to colleagues contributing to the Connect theme and broader LUMHR programme, including research assistants, practitioner researchers, peer researchers and cross-sector fellows, supporting their development as applied mental health researchers.
- Contribute to the research development of students, including supervision of dissertation or placement projects where appropriate.
- Support inclusive, co-learning approaches that value diverse knowledge, experience, practice traditions, and ways of working.

Funding and Sustainability

Contribute significantly to the preparation of grant applications that support the continuation or expansion of Connect theme work, including opportunities aligned with the post-holder's own research development.

Teaching Support

- If required, engage in teaching support activities, up to a maximum of six hours per week.
- Assist in the supervision of postgraduate research students.

In addition to the above, undertake such duties as may reasonably be requested and that are commensurate with the nature and grade of the post.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Key working relationships/networks	
Internal	External
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LUMHR Co-Leads • LUMHR Connect Theme Leads • LUMHR Manager and support staff • Other LUMHR colleagues and co-investigators • LIRCH Director and senior team • Other research and academic staff within the Institute and College • Professional services staff • Postgraduate Research Students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core LUMHR partners (NHS, ICS, local authority, academic, and third-sector organisations) • People and communities in Lincolnshire • LUMHR Lived Experience Advisory Panel, Steering Committee, and International Advisory Board • Mentors within the University of Nottingham’s Institute for Mental Health • Other research collaborators and partner organisations • Study sites (as applicable) • Funder (NIHR) and other relevant funding bodies • Collaborating Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) groups



**UNIVERSITY OF LINCOLN
PERSON SPECIFICATION**

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Selection Criteria	Essential (E) or Desirable (D)	Where Evidenced Application (A) Interview (I) Presentation (P) References (R)
Qualifications:		
Relevant honours degree or equivalent	E	A
PhD in relevant discipline or equivalent research experience (good candidates may be accepted with doctoral degree pending)	E	A
Extensive knowledge specific to geospatial mapping, place-based data-set analytics, and rural/coastal access	E	A
Experience:		
Experience of relevant research methods (e.g., working with complex multi-data sets) in applied mental health or social research	E	A/I
Experience of mapping and GIS programming to address applied research questions	E	A/I
Track record of authorship of peer-reviewed research outputs	D	A/I
Familiarity with data ethics and information governance principles and practices	E	A/I
Relevant professional experience in mental health, community work, public health, or social care	D	A/I
Experience of developing research and evaluation analysis plans	D	A/I
Experience of obtaining research funding (as applicant or collaborator)	D	A/I
Skills and Knowledge:		
Ability to design, conduct, and project manage original research in the project area	E	A/I
Ability to work appropriately and professionally with sensitive, potentially distressing, or emotionally challenging material relating to mental health, wellbeing, trauma, crisis, or suicide	E	A/I
Excellent written communication, including ability to write high-quality research reports and outputs	E	A/I
Ability to adaptively and effectively communicate complex information to diverse audiences, including community partners	E	A/I
Experience presenting research to academic, clinical, community or public audiences	D	A/I
Knowledge of geospatial approaches and spatial-temporal data analysis	E	A/I

Understanding of mental health inequalities, particularly in rural, coastal or underserved settings	D	A/I
Ability to prioritise own workload and work to specified deadlines under pressure	E	A/I
Key Competencies, Personal and Leadership Attributes:		
Good organisational skills and accurate record keeping	E	I
Ability to work independently and show initiative when appropriate	E	I
Ability to work collaboratively with colleagues and partners from diverse backgrounds, including practitioner researchers, peer researchers, and lived-experience contributors	E	I
Ability to build good working relationships with academic, clinical, community and policy partners	E	I
Commitment to inclusive, ethical and participatory research practice	E	I
Commitment to Responsible Research and Innovation values	E	I
Enthusiasm, commitment and willingness to engage in professional development	E	I
Business Requirements:		
Willingness to travel across Lincolnshire, and to participate in in-person meetings, engagement activities, and place-based data collection as required by the programme	E	I

Essential Requirements are those, without which, a candidate would not be able to do the job. **Desirable Requirements** are those which would be useful for the post holder to possess and will be considered when more than one applicant meets the essential requirements.

Author	HM/NGM/DD/JA	SPBP	PC
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