Job description – Lecturer/Senior Lecturer in Clinical Trial Statistics

Post title	Lecturer/ Senior Lecturer in Clinical Trial Statistics
Department/Division	Division of Methodologies
Faculty	Florence Nightingale Faculty of Nursing, Midwifery & Palliative Care
Grade/salary	Lecturer or Senior Lecturer, depending on the successful candidate's experience Lecturer: Grade 7, £46,292 - £54,534 inclusive of £3,500 London Weighting Allowance per annum Senior Lecturer: Grade 8, £56,060 - £64,405 inclusive of £3,500 London Weighting Allowance per annum
Hours of work	Full time, 35 hours per week
Contract (Perm/FTC)	Permanent
Responsible to	Director of Nightingale-Saunders Clinical Trials and Epidemiology Unit (NSU), the section of the King's Clinical Trials Unit in the Faculty.
Responsible for	Joint supervision / Supervision of a Trial Statistician
Campus/Location	Cicely Saunders Institute, Denmark Hill (50%) and James Clerk Maxwell Building, Waterloo (50%)

Role profile

Summary:
This is an exciting new opportunity for a talented individual honed in sound statistical approaches and their communication to join our flourishing Nightingale-Saunders Complex Clinical Trials and Epidemiology Unit (NSU), led by Professor Toby Prevost. The unit supports high quality complex clinical trials and related studies in nursing, midwifery, palliative care, rehabilitation and relevant heath care and clinical studies.

The appointee will contribute to new clinical trial grant applications, and follow studies to completion and publication, including trial statistician supervision. They will lead the development and delivery of a new MRes in Complex Clinical Trials, and on the contribution of the academic clinical trial statistician to PhD supervision or taught programmes, and contribute to improving the statistical skills across the Faculty.

The Nightingale-Saunders Unit (NSU) is a specialist section of King's NIHR accredited Clinical Trials Unit (CTU), working to the quality management system of the CTU. The NSU team includes the Director, and a senior trial manager and statisticians funded on external grants. The core of King's CTU has world leading statistical and trial delivery expertise, especially in mental health and cancer, and provides randomisation services and other management system support.

The Florence Nightingale Faculty of Nursing, Midwifery and Palliative care, led by Professor Irene Higginson, is expanding trial and related research, honouring its origins of Florence Nightingale as a leading Statistician and Mathematician, as well as her pioneering innovation as a nurse. There are excellent opportunities for collaboration and development across King's, with the close working links with King's CTU and other departments and Faculties, and the extensive academic and researcher development programmes withing King's.

The appointee will be involved in grant applications to a variety of funding streams, from early phase to late phase trials and fellowships that typically involve trials. There are excellent opportunities to develop, lead and apply novel methods and approaches, in response to the complexities in the data structures, the interventions and the outcomes across the research areas of Faculty. NSU members have collaborated in applications requiring careful consideration for trials of complex interventions, adaptive designs for early phase trials, designs required to handle clustering in outcomes, and outcomes with intercurrent events. Building on the MRC complex interventions guidance, researchers have been successfully funded to undertake feasibility and other preliminary trials, which have been identified as an area of extension. This post enables the clinical trial statistics for these to be led as a programme, and to enable research investigators with the NSU to be more well-informed in applying for subsequent effectiveness trials.

Key objectives:
- As a Senior Lecturer, thereby being a King's CTU approved Senior Statistician, to independently contribute as a co-applicant in trial grant applications and to act as supervising statistician in funded trials. OR
  As Lecturer, to be deputised in this role under the mentorship of the NSU Director.
- As a Senior Lecturer, to lead the trial statistics in a programme of current feasibility trials and develop these with the faculty research investigators to subsequent effectiveness trial applications. OR
  As Lecturer, to be mentored in this role by the NSU Director.
- To contribute to NSU objectives, with a key role in Clinical Trial MRes development, delivery and leadership.
- To support postgraduate research students through PhD supervision and through training in introductory statistics at this level and to support taught postgraduate and other programmes.

Academic Duties:

Research:
- Contribute fully to developing and enhancing the research profile of the Faculty and the University, nationally and internationally, through a continuing track record of high-quality research and publication.
- Provide expert high-quality statistical input into the planning, protocols, funding applications, studies, analysis, interpretation and write-up of significant, original and rigorous clinical trials in the Faculty and with selected high-quality partners.
- Secure research funding from multiple sources, involving other Faculty and University teams wherever possible.
- Actively support the clinical researchers during the set up and conduct of trials, ensuring that any aspects of the trial in relation to the data quality and the data credibility are considered, discussed, and the key decisions documented appropriately.
- Oversee and perform statistical analyses and reporting of data arising from randomised controlled trials and other studies, including Data Monitoring Committee reports.
- Maintain excellent working relationships with investigators, staff and students in the faculty, the King's CTU, and clinical teams to promote the development of clinical trials.
- Contribute to the development and maintenance of high-quality clinical trials and related research projects.
- Lead a programme of feasibility trials, with trial statistician supervision, and collaborate in grant applications to develop these into subsequent effectiveness trials.

Teaching:
- Take a leading role in planning, organising and delivering relevant research and teaching activities with the Faculty, in particular developing a MRes with module content relevant to clinical trials and applied statistics.
- Contribute to the ongoing development and design of education curricula in clinical trials and applied statistics, in a manner that supports a research-led approach to student learning.
- Extend, transform and apply knowledge acquired from clinical trials research to teaching.
- Contribute to the planning, design and development of objectives and material.
- Develop innovative approaches to research and new trial analysis methods and approaches that are relevant to Faculty research interests with translation into teaching materials.
- Use appropriate teaching, learning support and assessment methods.
- Contribute to undergraduate and postgraduate teaching of statistics within the faculty.

Administration/Management:
- Manage projects and supervise trial statisticians in NSU trials.

Regular meetings:
- Participate in NSU unit and Methodologies divisional meetings.
- Attend other Divisional and Faculty research and education meetings as recommended by the Director of NSU.

Clinical Governance:
- Maintain training in the Good Clinical Practice standard for the conduct of clinical research.
- Follow the Standard Operating Procedures of the King's Clinical Trials Unit and contribute to their development.
- Contribute to accreditation and quality control processes relevant to clinical trials.

Continuing Professional Development:
- Engage in professional development as agreed with the Director of the NSU.
- Make presentations at conferences or exhibit work in other appropriate events.

Teaching and Training:
- Take on PhD primary supervisor role in time, and from appointment be part of those PhD supervisory teams requiring statistical expertise, or novelty in design or methodology.
- Support Faculty PhD students through the membership of PhD supervisory teams.
- Lead training in statistical methods for postgraduate students in the faculty.
- Attend and participate in appropriate research seminars/conferences within subject related areas.

Other:
- Work independently in planning day-to-day activities in accordance with the project and role.
- Undertake any other reasonable duties that may be requested by the Director of the NSU.

Health and Safety:
- Attend induction and regular Health and Safety courses promoted by the Faculty.

About the Faculty:

Florence Nightingale Faculty of Nursing, Midwifery & Palliative Care
https://www.kcl.ac.uk/nmpc

The Florence Nightingale Faculty of Nursing, Midwifery & Palliative Care (NMPC) is a world-leading centre for research education, and training. Its applied clinical and health research transforms health, quality of life and care across nursing, midwifery, palliative and end of life care, rehabilitation and related clinical, health and social sciences. Our research develops, understands, implements and evaluates interventions, therapies and care across our fields to build knowledge, lead policy and practice and improve outcomes for patients and those important to them. Teams address complex, multi- and interdisciplinary health and social challenges. Our research is carried out locally, nationally and internationally, and globally. We work with local services and our partner NHS Trusts, lead national studies supported by NIHR, UKRI, EU and NIH and globally, and major research programmes in Africa and Asia. Our global studies are in collaboration with King's Global Health Institute, which provides a focal point for King's large academic community of Global Health researchers and students.

Our Faculty has around 3,000 undergraduate, postgraduate taught and research students, with a growing international intake. The Faculty teams across Nursing, Midwifery and Palliative Care have developed and remain home to some of the leading clinical academics in our fields. Our international education is expanded through its collaborations with Nanjing Health School in China and Ngee Ann Academy in Singapore. Our programme in Singapore is the first King's degree taught fully outside of the UK and is designed to equip qualified nurses with critical skills that will transform the way they approach challenges in their career.

In 2017 Nursing and Midwifery was united with the Cicely Saunders Institute, to create the new Faculty of Nursing, Midwifery and Palliative Care. The Cicely Saunders Institute unites clinical, research and education teams in the world's first and only purpose-built institute of Palliative Care, established in 2010, with an internationally recognised research and staff development programme. Palliative Care at King's is ranked top in Europe and second in the world according to citation analysis. Citation analysis places King's nursing and midwifery top in the UK. The 2014 Research Excellence Framework (REF2014), rated over 90% of our research as world class or world leading, and 84% of our impact was world leading. In the last three years (2019-2021) of QS World University Rankings by Subject, King's is ranked top in Europe and second in the world for nursing (including midwifery). In 2018 our new research strategy created research divisions to focus critical mass in areas of strength and increased support for, and representation from, early career researchers and PhD students. In 2021 we launch our new postgraduate research strategy, creating the Nightingale-Saunders Centre for Doctoral Studies within the King's Centre for Doctoral Studies.

We now comprise: The Cicely Saunders Institute for Palliative Care, Policy and Rehabilitation, a multiprofessional team comprising doctors, nurses, allied health professionals and social scientists, that researches ways to improve care and its cost-effectiveness for the growing numbers of people with progressive diseases and in multimorbidity, and delivers undergraduate and postgraduate education, including a leading MSc programme and provides clinical palliative care. Three Research Divisions: Care in Long Term Conditions, that unites teams researching across mental health, diabetes, bowel conditions and care for older people; Applied Technologies for Care, that has innovated and trialled new devices, and technologies; Methodologies, that has pioneered the methods of experienced-based co-design to develop interventions, and our new Nightingale Saunders Clinical Trials Unit. We have four teaching departments providing undergraduate, preregistration and some postgraduate teaching: Adult Nursing; Mental Health Nursing; Midwifery and Child and Adolescent Nursing. Our pre-registration courses are designed to prepare students for their careers, and we offer qualified nurses, midwives and other healthcare professionals the chance to continue their learning through professional development.

We were part of King's world-leading responses to the COVID-19 pandemic, highlighting our commitment to immediate health care needs, support for vulnerable and disadvantaged populations, societal impact, and the breadth of our disciplines and science. We were at the centre of the COVID-19 response, which affected >3,000 patients across our hospitals during the initial outbreak. We rapidly contributed to sector-leading outcomes for our populations; COVID-19 inpatient mortality rates for our two acute National Health Service (NHS) Trusts were lowest and third lowest nationally. For example; Rose developed Lifelines, a home care technology platform rolled out to hospitals across the UK, enabling family members to see and speak with their loved ones and with clinical teams; Higginson, Harding and colleagues led the local, national and international palliative and end of life care response across high and low-and-middle-income countries, providing the first robust understanding of care and symptom management for people dying from COVID-19; Bajwah led the development of evidence-based fact sheets for patients and families affected by COVID-19, co-designed with the European Lung Foundation (a patient led group). Many clinical academic staff provided front line clinical care, and education, research and administration moved to on-line person to person interactions, with a considerable expansion of our digital offering.

We have an extensive programme of public and patient involvement and engagement, and with practitioners, managers, educators, policy makers and our students.

Equality, Diversity & Inclusion is a key driver in all our work. Both the Faculty and the Cicely Saunders Institute hold Silver Athena SWAN awards for our commitment to gender equality, with an ambition to achieving gold in future submissions.

King's Health Partners
https://www.kingshealthpartners.org/

We benefit from our Academic Health Sciences Centre, King's Health Partners (KHP), where outstanding research, education and clinical practice are unified for the benefit of patients, those important to them, care teams, and society. KHP is one of eight UK Academic Health Science Centres accredited by DHSC/NHS England. It unites King's with our three world leading NHS Trusts; Guy's and St Thomas', King's College Hospital and South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trusts. KHP aims to accelerate the translation of leading-edge research, new technologies and treatments into advances in patient care throughout the sector and has c.5M patient contacts/year and >600 clinical trials in delivery.

This and our wide relationships with other health care trusts, and voluntary services, ensure that our students have the chance to immerse themselves in practice and work alongside professionals with clinical expertise in a whole host of areas.

King's College London
https://www.kcl.ac.uk/

Our Faculty benefits from the wide opportunities, infrastructures and talent across King's College London. Founded in 1829, King's College London employs >11,000 staff and has >33,000 students (of which >12,800 postgraduates), from >150 countries.

King's is a research-intensive university, a member of the Russell Group, and ranked 7th in the UK (9th in Europe) by the Times Higher Education World University Rankings (2021). King's is organised into 9 Faculties, all of which deliver the academic mission of the university across research, teaching and service. Our research is strongly multidisciplinary and crosses these structures; with integration and interdisciplinary research and education supported by King's wide funding opportunities, datasets and major programmes.

Organisational chart
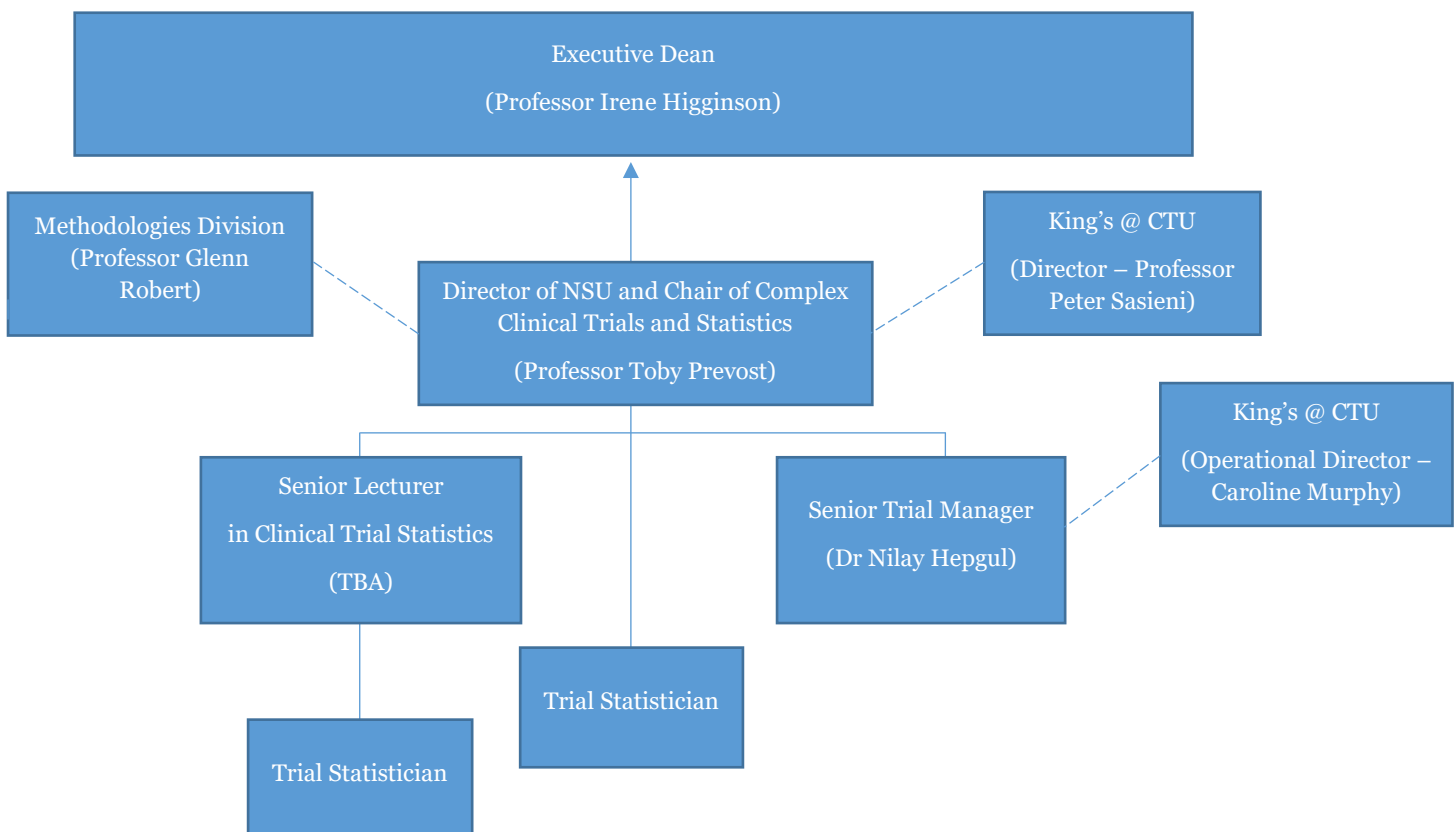
Person specification

Eligibility to work in the United Kingdom

Applications are welcome from international candidates. For details of routes to obtaining permission to work in the UK please refer to the UK Visas and Immigration website: www.gov.uk/visas-immigration

Criteria	Essential	Desirable	Criteria Level
*For 'How identified and assessed' use: AP - application, AS - assessment, I - interview, P - presentation, R - references			Lecturer (L) Senior Lecturer (SL)
Education / qualification and training			
Formal qualification in Statistics or another closely related mathematical discipline	AP		L/SL
PhD in a relevant discipline	AP		L/SL
Relevant Professional Memberships		AP	L/SL
Qualification in teaching		AP	L/SL
Knowledge / skills			
Good knowledge of statistical methodology as applied in clinical trials	AP/I		L/SL
Good knowledge of general statistical methods applied in health research and taught in medical school contexts	AP/I		L/SL
A working knowledge of Good Clinical Practice and the Medicines for Human Use (Clinical Trials) Regulations	AP		L/SL
Excellent written and verbal communications skills, including in explaining statistical concepts	AP/I/P		L/SL
An understanding of the university context, with particular knowledge of the research and education funding environment		AP/I	L/SL
Evidence of ability to manage research staff	AP/I/R		SL
Evidence of ability to manage research staff		AP/I/R	L
Knowledge of the scientific and practical issues faced in conducting complex trials in nursing, midwifery, palliative care or related fields, and experience in applying the skills to overcome these challenges		AP/I/P	L/SL
Experience			

Criteria	Essential	Desirable	Criteria Level
*For 'How identified and assessed' use: **AP** - application, **AS** - assessment, **I** - interview, **P** - presentation, **R** - references			Lecturer (L) Senior Lecturer (SL)
National research profile as evidenced by sustained research outputs, publications in scientific journals	AP		SL
		AP	L
National research profile as evidenced by co-applicant awarded research grants	AP		SL
		AP	L
Experience of successfully supervising Masters and/or PhD students to completion		AP	L/SL
Experience of teaching statistics to undergraduate and postgraduate students	AP/I		L/SL
Evidence of growing track record of success in securing major grant holding, including from the NIHR and MRC	AP		L/SL
Membership of trial oversight committees	AP		SL
		AP	L
Experience of working with a range of clinicians and academics	AP		L/SL
Experience and awareness of issues in conducting research and complex trials relevant to the issues faced in nursing, midwifery, palliative care or rehabilitation	AP/I		L/SL
Personal characteristics/other requirements			
Effective diplomacy and negotiation skills with demonstrated ability to achieve constructive, mutually beneficial relationships with stakeholders	AP/I/P		L/SL
Motivated and self-disciplined	AP/I		L/SL
Ability to show common sense and judgement	AP/I/R		L/SL
Comfortable with persuading colleagues to undertake new initiatives	AP/I/P		L/SL
Excellent interpersonal skills	AP/I		L/SL
Proven ability to work as part of a team	AP/I		L/SL
Proven ability to be flexible and adaptive to changing circumstances	AP/I		L/SL
Experience of line managing a more junior statistician	AP/I		SL
		AP/I	L
Commitment to advancing trials and their methods in fields relevant to this post	AP/I		L/SL
Commitment to promoting equality, diversity and inclusivity	AP/I		L/SL

Disclosure and Barring Service Clearance (DBS formerly CRB)

This position is 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 whether the conviction is spent, and the university will be required to apply for an enhanced disclosure (a criminal records check) from the Disclosure & Barring Service in relation to the successful candidate.

Level of DBS Clearance required - indicate all applicable aspects:			
Carrying out regulated activities[1]:	No	No Regulated Activity but contact with vulnerable groups[2]:	No
No Regulated Activity but deemed a position of trust[3]:	Yes	Situated in a Regulated Environment i.e. NHS premises[4]:	Yes

1. The scope of Regulated Activity for work with children and young people is defined under the age of 18 years old. An adult is not considered to be vulnerable due to any personal characteristic: however, an adult may be regarded as vulnerable due to particular circumstances at a particular time, for example when they are receiving treatment in a hospital.
2. Contact with vulnerable groups must meet the frequency threshold of 4 days in a 30 day period.
3. A position of trust is any post that requires authorisation for restricted access to confidential data (not including anonymised patient data), premises or currency.
4. KCL buildings do not qualify as regulated environments and only our partner NHS Trust sites qualify as regulated environments.

Further information about the Disclosure scheme can be found at: **www.gov.uk/dbs**

A criminal record will only be taken into account for recruitment purposes, where the conviction is relevant to the position being applied for, and whether this is the case, will not necessarily bar candidates from employment. Any decision will depend on the precise nature of the work, the circumstances and background to the offence(s). The same procedure will be followed for university staff applying internally for a vacancy.

Occupational Health Clearance

This appointment is subject to Occupational Health clearance. The successful applicant will be sent an Occupational Health Questionnaire along with their contract of employment. When the Occupational Health Department at King's College Hospital have evaluated the questionnaire and declared that they are fit for appointment, your appointment start date will be formally confirmed.

Specific aspects - indicate frequency D (daily), W (weekly), M (monthly) where applicable:			
Intensive Display Screen Equipment work (e.g. data entry or digital microscopy)[1]:	D	Direct patient contact involving exposure prone procedures (EPP)[2]:	
Heavy manual handling[1]:		Direct patient contact, no EPP[2]	
Highly repetitive tasks (e.g. pipetting or re-shelving books)[1]:		Work with patient specimens (e.g. blood or tissue samples)[2]:	
Shift work, night work or call-out duties[2]:		Work with GM organisms or biological agents that may pose a hazard to human health[2]:	
Work involving risk of exposure to environmental or human pathogens (e.g. in waste streams or soils)[2]		Hazards which require health surveillance e.g. respiratory sensitisers (allergens, substances with risk phrase R42, wood dust etc.) or loud noise[2]	
Driving vehicles on university business[2]:		Food handling or preparation[2]:	
Work at height (e.g. ladders, scaffolds etc.)[1]		Work in confined spaces (e.g. sump rooms, etc.)[1]	

1. These hazards do not require health assessment but may require advice from OH if a successful candidate declares a disability or health condition in the Health & Capability Declaration.
2. These hazards automatically require the successful candidate to undergo employment health assessment to identify any necessary health surveillance, recommended vaccinations or other risk control measures. The Occupational Health option must be checked on the SRAF or the Employment Checks page in the e-Recruitment system.