

Job title	Research Assistant – RE-STAR
Department	Child & Adolescent Psychiatry
Grade	Grade 5
Campus	Denmark Hill
Responsible to	RE-STAR Programme Manager
Responsible for	N/A
Contract type	Fixed-term, 18-months

Main purpose of role

We are looking for an enthusiastic and motivated pre-doctoral Research Assistant for an exciting new programme – RE-STAR (Regulating Emotions – Strengthening Adolescent Resilience). Based at King’s College London, RE-STAR is a multi-disciplinary and cross institution programme of research bringing together developmental psychology, data science, psychiatry and neuroscience with educational studies and the performing arts. Its goal is to better understand the role played by emotion regulation difficulties in the development of mental health problems in adolescents with neuroatypicalities such as ADHD and ASD traits: and then to translate the knowledge gained into new school-based interventions tailored to the needs of these young people.

The post-holder will work on the first RE-STAR work package as part of a team with the RE-STAR Programme Manager and a post-doctoral Research Associate. The team’s goal will be to develop a new way of measuring emotion regulation difficulties from the young person’s point of view. Individual responsibilities will depend on the mix of individuals recruited to the team, but will involve some or all of the following:

- (i) interviewing young people with neuroatypicalities;
- (ii) analysing the outputs using qualitative approaches and/or machine learning-based textual analysis tools to identify questionnaire items; and then
- (iii) validating the prototype questionnaire.

The entire work package will need to be delivered within 18 months and so the ability to manage competing priorities to strict deadlines is essential.

RE-STAR will be delivered in collaboration with partners at universities and stakeholder organisations as well as artists, teachers and doctors. Young people with neuroatypicalities will be actively involved in RE-STAR from start to finish. As such, the successful applicant must be willing to work effectively in a collaborative environment.

The post-holder will be employed by the Department of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, King's College London and will report to the RE-STAR Project Manager.

Key responsibilities

- Support the Programme Manager, Research Associate and Investigators in the delivery of RE-STAR work package 1.
- Work closely with the research team on the development and validation of the ERNI measure using qualitative thematic and/or machine learning based computational modelling approaches.
- Work with the Youth Researcher Panel.
- Assist with participant recruitment to ensure timely recruitment to targets.
- Collect data from participants through e.g., interviews, administration of online questionnaires and app usage data.
- Contribute to regular updates to the Co-Investigators and Programme Committees.
- Ensure data confidentiality, work within the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), the Data Protection Act 2018 and other regulatory bodies.
- Undertake any training courses necessary to assist in delivery of the work package objectives.
- Assist in writing up findings for funder reports and publication.

The above list of responsibilities may not be exhaustive, and the post holder will be required to undertake such tasks and responsibilities as may reasonably be expected within the scope and grading of the post.

Skills, knowledge and experience

Qualifications

- Undergraduate (or conversion) degree in psychology, health data science, health-related or other relevant subject.

Skills and understanding

- An understanding of the challenges facing adolescents with neuroatypicalities such as ADHD and autism.
- Rigour and accuracy in managing and analysing data.
- Knowledge of guidance relating to data confidentiality / security in research.

Essential prior experience

- Demonstrated interest in at least one of the following areas: computational models, topic modelling, and machine learning techniques; qualitative thematic analysis; analysis of large data pools; or development and/or validation of novel self-reports measures.
- Experience of working on a project delivered on time and to target.
- Evidence of research-related computing skills: word processing, Endnote, packages to support data analysis.

Desirable experience

- Postgraduate qualification in psychology, health data science, health-related or other relevant subject – or equivalent experience
- Interest in helping to develop a novel integration of qualitative and quantitative approaches.
- Experience of presenting research results either formally or informally
- Experience of working with young people with neuroatypicalities.

Behavioural characteristics

- Ability to work independently as well as within a larger team.
- Willingness to conduct interviews with participants.
- Ability to deal with sensitive issues and maintain confidentiality.