

# Research Associate

School	Education ( <a href="http://www.strath.ac.uk/humanities/schoolofeducation/">www.strath.ac.uk/humanities/schoolofeducation/</a> )		
Faculty	Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences ( <a href="http://www.strath.ac.uk/humanities/">www.strath.ac.uk/humanities/</a> )		
Staff Category	Research	Reference No	428394
Reports To	The Head of School, through Principal Investigator Dr Markus Klein	Grade:	7
Salary Range:	£33,309 per annum	Contract Type:	Fixed Term (24 months)
FTE:	1 (Full time)	Closing Date	Sunday, 13 March 2022

## Job Advert

The School of Education at the University of Strathclyde is seeking to appoint a full-time Postdoctoral Research Associate on a fixed-term basis from May 2022 until April 2024, contributing to the research project 'Is school absenteeism harmful to education and labour market outcomes?'. This secondary data analysis project is funded by the Nuffield Foundation and will draw on two prospective longitudinal datasets, the 1970 British Cohort Study (BCS70) and the Millennium Cohort Study (MCS), linking school administrative data from the National Pupil Database. It will investigate the extent to which school absences are associated with pupils' educational attainment and labour market returns and whether psychosocial dispositions mediate these. In addition, the project will examine if these associations vary by children and young people's sociodemographic characteristics from an intersectional perspective. Finally, the project will involve working closely with the Nuffield Foundation and policymakers to improve young people's life course outcomes. The work builds on the successful ESRC project undertaken by Drs Klein & Sosu in the School of Education.

As a Postdoctoral Research Associate, under the general guidance of the PI and Co-I, you will play a lead role in this Nuffield Foundation research project. Your main tasks include conducting collaborative research to achieve the project's objectives. Specifically, you will be responsible for accessing and managing complex longitudinal data, learning, and applying advanced quantitative methods, synthesising the literature on key aspects of the project, writing up research for reports, publications, policy and media briefs, and disseminating the findings through conference presentations and knowledge exchange events.

To be considered for the role, you will be educated to a minimum of PhD level in an appropriate discipline or have significant relevant experience in addition to a relevant degree. You should have sufficient breadth or depth of knowledge in advanced quantitative methods, causal inference, and longitudinal data analysis; experience in managing longitudinal data; ability to conduct collaborative research work; and the dissemination of research findings. Additionally, you should have the ability to plan and organise your workload effectively and work within a team environment. Finally, you should have excellent interpersonal and communication skills, with the ability to listen, engage and persuade, and present complex information in an accessible way to a range of audiences.

Whilst not essential for the role, we welcome applications from candidates with experience in knowledge exchange activities and the analysis of school administrative data.

## Job Description

### Main Activities/Responsibilities:

1. Conduct collaborative research, including determining appropriate research methods, in line with the research agenda set in our Nuffield Foundation project.

2.	Play a lead role in cleaning of data, data management, development of code to analyse complex longitudinal data using appropriate software packages (e.g., Stata, R) following open science practices.
3.	Learn and use innovative methods (e.g., causal mediation analysis) to analyse and interpret research data and draw robust conclusions.
4.	Synthesise the literature on school absences, dispositions, and long-term outcomes.
5.	Write up research work for publication in collaboration with colleagues, and disseminate results as appropriate to the discipline by, for example, peer reviewed journal publications and presentation at conferences.
6.	Regularly liaise with an Advisory Group providing feedback in all project stages.
7.	Collaborate with colleagues on the development of knowledge exchange activities by, for example, participating in initiatives which establish research links with industry and influence public policy and the professions.
9.	Identify sources of funding and contribute to the securing of funds for research, including drafting grant proposals and planning for future proposals.
10.	Plan and manage own workload, with guidance from colleagues as required.
11.	Engage in continuous professional development.

## 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 Good honours degree and PhD (or equivalent professional experience) in an appropriate discipline i.e., psychology, sociology, education, economics, or public health

### Experience

E2 Strong skills and demonstrable experience in the application of advanced quantitative methods

E3 Experience with data management and analysis of large-scale longitudinal data

D1 Experience of knowledge exchange related activities.

D2 Experience with data management and analysis of school administrative data.

### Job Related Skills and Achievements

E4 Ability to conduct collaborative research work, to disseminate results and to prepare research proposals.

E5 Ability to write research papers at publishable standards

E6 Ability to plan and organise own workload effectively.

E7 Ability to work within a team environment.

D3 Ability to communicate research to a lay audience.

### Personal Attributes

E8 Excellent interpersonal and communication skills, with the ability to listen, engage and persuade.

## 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 Markus Klein, Senior Lecturer ([markus.klein@strath.ac.uk](mailto:markus.klein@strath.ac.uk)/ 0141 444 8120).

## 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.

## Probation

Where applicable, the successful applicant will be required to serve a 9 month probationary period.

## Pension

The successful applicant will be eligible to join the Universities' Superannuation Scheme. 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 Monday, 28 March 2022.

## Equality and Diversity

We value diversity and welcome applications from all sections of the community.

The University currently holds a Bronze Athena SWAN award, recognising our commitment to advancing gender equality in academia across all academic disciplines and professional and support functions.

## 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.

