

Post-doctoral Research Fellow

Department:	Psychology, School of Mind Body & Society
Grade/ Salary:	Grade 7
Contract Type:	Fixed Term until 31 August 2028
Hours:	Full Time
Location:	New Cross, London

Goldsmiths

Goldsmiths, University of London is a world-leading centre of educational excellence where ground-breaking research meets innovative teaching and thinking. We're looking for inspiring and talented people to help build on our global reputation while also growing personally in a true learning organisation.

As a college we are working to tackle inequality in all its forms and are working to promote equality on grounds of race, disability, age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion and belief, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity and caring responsibilities. We are keen to attract candidates from diverse backgrounds who share our commitment to creating an inclusive culture in which all students and staff can thrive.

Information for candidates with disabilities can be found on our [Disability & individual needs](#) page. We are happy to supply information in alternative formats for disabled applicants. Please contact hr-recruitment@gold.ac.uk to make your request.



Passionate about advancing equality
and celebrating diversity.
Together, we are different



Together
we are different

What makes Goldsmiths unique?

Goldsmiths is a world-renowned university that has a reputation for rigorous and innovative academic work; creativity has long been our hallmark. Academic excellence and imaginative course content combine to make a place where creative minds can thrive.

Psychology at Goldsmiths

Psychology in the School of Mind Body & Society, Goldsmiths University of London boasts a vibrant research community in an inherently interdisciplinary environment at the intersection of the arts, the social and the life sciences. The subject area has a successful and long-standing track record of attracting significant research funding. 100% of our research impact and 82% of our overall research activity is rated officially world-leading or internationally excellent in terms of originality, significance and rigour (Research Excellence Framework 2021). Psychology at Goldsmiths is ranked in the UK Top 40 for research power (Times Higher Education rankings, Research Excellence Framework 2021) and in the Top 150 of Psychology Departments worldwide (Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2023). Psychology houses state-of-the-art research facilities, including brain stimulation, lab-based and mobile EEG, wearable sensing and eye-tracking equipment. We are strongly committed to open science principles and to applying research to influence policy and practice in society and real-world contexts. Subject area supports early career researchers through internally funded PhD bursaries, an individual mentoring scheme and university-wide research seed-funding initiatives.

Information about the department can be found here:

www.gold.ac.uk/subjects/psychology-neuroscience/

Job description

Reporting to: Dr Hilary Norman, Lecturer in Psychology

Summary:

We have an exciting opportunity for a Post-doctoral Research Fellow to work under the supervision of Dr Hilary Norman (Psychology, Goldsmiths University) on an externally funded project. The project will conduct exploratory research into the

prevalence, experience and cost of suicidal ideation and behaviour among older adults in receipt of social care in England, and the impact on care staff and providers.

Collaborators on the project are Professor Rebecca Charlton (Goldsmiths, University of London) Professor Lisa Marzano, Dr Bastien Chabe-Ferret and Pam Hodge (Middlesex University), Dr Manuela Deidda (University of Glasgow) and Louise Keane and Scarlett MacDonald (social care practitioners and co-chairs of strategic nurse advisory councils in London and the South East respectively).

The candidate will be responsible for working with stakeholders, including experts by experience; developing research objectives and processes; obtaining ethical approval; and conducting research involving primary data collection and analysis. The project is based at Goldsmiths University of London, and some travel will be required within England.

The successful candidate should have a PhD in psychology, or in another field relevant to the project. They should have strong qualitative and quantitative research skills. Experience with participatory research is desirable. They should be able to demonstrate experience publishing in peer-reviewed journals. The applicant should also have the ability to work independently, and excellent interpersonal, written and oral skills. A DBS check will be required. The post holder would be appointed at Grade 7 up to Spine Point 36 on a full-time fixed term contract.

Main duties:

- To design and conduct qualitative research to explore the experience of suicidal behaviour, ideation and disclosures by older adult users of social care, through interviews and focus groups with older adults, friends/family and care staff.
- To help design, conduct and analyse an online survey of care providers.
- To conduct a systematic review of pertinent academic and grey literature.
- To work with experts by experience and collaborate effectively with key stakeholders to support the delivery of the research project.
- To work closely with the project supervisor and the project team to ensure that tasks of the project are carried out in a timely and effective way and to contribute to such other appropriate aspects of the project as requested by the project supervisor.

- To contribute to the production of project deliverables, including research reports, conference presentations and peer-reviewed articles.
- To report verbally and in writing on all aspects of work undertaken as required by the project supervisor
- To take part in project meetings and make presentations of the work done as required by the supervisor
- At all times to carry out your responsibilities with due regard to the College Code on Equality and Diversity and Code to Combat Bullying and Harassment/Dignity at Work Policy;
- At all times to help maintain a safe working environment by attending training as necessary and following the College's Health and Safety Codes of Practice and Policy.
- To ensure confidentiality on all matters and information obtained during the course of employment and respect the confidentiality of data stored electronically and by other means in line with the Data Protection Act

Person Specification

Detailed below are the types of qualifications, experience, skills and knowledge which are required of the post holder. Selection will be made upon evidence of best-fit with these criteria.

The Essential criteria sections show the minimum essential requirements for the post, therefore if you cannot demonstrate in your application you meet the essential criteria categorised below, you will not be invited to interview.

The Desirable criteria sections show additional attributes which would enable the applicant to perform the role more effectively with little or no training.

The Category column indicates the method of assessment:

A = Application form	C = Certificate
I = Interview	R = Reference
T = Test	P = Presentation

	Essential	Desirable	Category
Qualifications			
A BSc (or equivalent) in Psychology, Social Science or a closely related discipline	√		A, I, C
A PhD (or equivalent) in Psychology, Social Science or a closely related discipline (completed or to be completed prior to the start date)	√		A, I, C
Experience			
Proven track record of conducting high quality, impactful research	√		A, I, R, P
Experience of conducting qualitative research in relevant areas (e.g. mental health)	√		A, I, R, P
Experience of in-depth/semi-structured interviews and/or focus groups, analysing and disseminating qualitative research	√		A, I, R
Experience of conducting research into suicide, suicide prevention or other related fields of a sensitive nature		√	A, I, R
Experience of quantitative research methods in relevant fields, particularly survey-based methods.		√	A, I, R
Experience of evidence synthesis (e.g. systematic review)		√	A, I, R
Experience of participatory research methods		√	A, I, R
Experience of developing and maintaining collaborative working relationships with a range of stakeholders, such as policy-makers, people with lived experience of mental health problems and partners in industry, clinical and third sector organisations.		√	A, I, R
Experience of conducting research or working in a field relating to social care or aging		√	A, I, R
Experience of writing peer reviewed papers or policy documents	√		A, I, R
Knowledge			
Knowledge of qualitative research methods	√		A, I
Knowledge of statistical analysis in relation to survey data		√	A, I
Knowledge of suicide prevention policies and practice in England		√	A, I
Knowledge of the social care sector in England		√	A, I
Skills			
High-level analytical capability	√		A, I, R
Excellent organisational skills and ability to work on own initiative	√		A, I, R

Excellent communication skills oral and written	√		A, I, R, P
Able to work as part of a team	√		A, I, R
Additional Attributes			
A high degree of initiative and motivation	√		A, I, R

If you are invited for interview you will be asked to give a 10 minute presentation on how you will design and conduct qualitative research on the topic of suicidality among older adult users of social care, drawing on your previous relevant experience.

Please also note that where qualifications are required, employment is conditional on the verification of them. Qualifications (must be original documents) will be checked before the first day of appointment.

For more information about the role, please contact Hilary Norman, e-mail
H.Norman@gold.ac.uk

March 2026

Summary of Benefits

If you choose to work with us, you'll become part of a learning organisation that is committed to professional and personal development, with comprehensive and innovative staff development and wellbeing programmes.

You'll also have access to frequent lunchtime and evening talks, seminars and performances, and annual performance and development reviews.

Our other benefits include:

- Competitive salary
- Working in Zone 2, with fantastic transport links and interest free travel to work loans
- Excellent annual leave entitlement plus additional closure days at Christmas and Easter
- Membership of USS or LPFA pension scheme, dependent upon grade

- Maternity, paternity, shared parental leave and adoption leave and pay
- Contractual sick pay provision
- Access to an Employee Assistance Programme, offering 24/7/365 confidential and free advice, support and information service on a range of personal, family or work-related matters.
- Free eye tests
- Cycle to work scheme
- Wellbeing initiatives including the Chaplaincy and Staff Choir
- On-site [dining facilities](#)
- Access to University of London facilities such as [Senate House Library](#)
- Membership of Staff Diversity Networks: (Dis)Ability, Goldsmiths Race Equality Group, LGBTQ+, Menopause, Parents and Carers, Women at Goldsmiths. (Staff are also encouraged to join networks as Allies should they wish to do so rather than as members)

Further information

For more information about Goldsmiths, please visit: www.gold.ac.uk/about

Thank you for your interest in working with us, we wish you all the best with your application.