



UNIVERSITY OF MAURITIUS

VACANCY

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for the post of **Research Assistant (Full-Time)**, to work on the research project entitled “**Mo-Finger: 2 Year Multidomain Lifestyle Intervention for Cognitive Improvement and Prevention of Dementia in at-risk Adults: A Randomized Controlled Trial in Mauritius**”.

Qualifications Required

- A Degree in Psychology or any other related field.

Profile

Candidates must:

- Be IT literate, having a fair knowledge of using Excel or SPSS and Microsoft Word;
- Have excellent writing skills;
- Have experience in research; and
- Possess the necessary skills to perform the duties mentioned below.

Responsibilities & Duties

The RA should coordinate, oversee and document:

- a) All the activities planned as per the research protocol in diverse domains by the clinical psychologists, nutritionists, clinical physiotherapists, physical exercise trainers (to be involved on a sessional basis) in the interventional arm in 125 individuals;
- b) Investigations as per the research protocol in 250 research participants at baseline, 6th month, 1 year and 2 years (nurse, doctors, psychologists, laboratory technicians), according to the research protocol.

Specific duties to be performed by the Research Assistant (RA) are as follows:

1. Take notes of meetings and ensure implementation of decisions taken at Monitoring Committee meetings.
2. Ensure availability of printed material (questionnaires, information sheets and consent forms, logbooks) before recruitment and ensure their collection and safe storage afterwards.
3. Book appointments and invite participants for all tests to be performed in the 2 groups at baseline and in the 3 follow-up visits (250 individuals from 10 districts). The RA will also ensure coordination by liaising with doctors, nurses and clinical psychologists and all those involved in the research investigations.
4. Book appointments and invite the participants in the intervention arm to participate in all the different individual or group interventions planned over the 2 years (125 individuals from the 10 districts) either at the districts or at the Alzheimer’s Centre. The RA will also ensure coordination of activities by liaising with other clinical psychologists, physiotherapists, PE trainers, and all those involved in the research interventions.
5. Ensure that results of tests from investigations (baseline, 3 follow up visits) and comments and medical advice are sent by doctors to all participants in both groups (250 individuals from 10 districts).

6. Be the contact point for all the study participants, members of the Monitoring Committee and all investigators employed on a sessional basis during normal working hours.
7. Keep a record of all activities performed by health care personnel on a sessional basis, as per the research protocol, and provide feedback to the Monitoring Committee.
8. Prepare documents for the remuneration of the health care professionals employed on a sessional basis, in a timely manner.
9. Perform all data entry on the laptop provided by the PI and regular backing up of data on a USB device provided and report for this purpose to the Principal Investigator and Co-investigators. Help in data analyses, and in preparing material for the 6-monthly reports.
10. Visit, as often as possible, the 10 different districts where different activities are to be performed, specially to check that aerobic activities are being performed under the supervision of a PE trainer, nutritional advice has been provided in groups or individually and oversee training in cognitive exercises.

The RA will be recruited by the Department of Medicine and will be based both at the University of Mauritius (50%) and at the Alzheimer's Centre in Belle-Rose (50%). S/he will report to the Monitoring Committee.

Remuneration

A monthly all-inclusive allowance of Rs27,400/-, plus salary compensation at approved rate, plus travelling expenses by bus.

Duration of Contract

Appointment will be offered for an initial contractual period of six months, renewable if required. The proposed starting date will be 08 April 2024.

Mode of Application

Letter of application together with a detailed *Curriculum Vitae* and photocopies of qualifications, birth certificate, marriage certificate (if applicable), testimonials, equivalence of qualifications (where applicable) and contact details of two referees, should be sent via email to **Dr M D Manraj, Principal Investigator** on the following email address [manrajmd@uom.ac.mu] and copied to **the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences** [deanfmhs@uom.ac.mu] by **Friday 29 March 2024, at latest**.

The email subject should be clearly marked **“Research Assistant for the project - “Mo-Finger: 2 Year Multidomain Lifestyle Intervention for Cognitive Improvement and Prevention of Dementia in at-risk Adults: A Randomized Controlled Trial in Mauritius”**”. Applications received after the closing date will not be considered.

The University reserves the right:

- To call for interview only the most appropriate and best qualified applicants.
- Not to make any appointment as a result of this advertisement.
- To conduct a written/aptitude test as and when required.

21 March 2024

Prof (Dr) MF Mahomoodally
Dean, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences