

Role profile

Role title: Senior Research Fellow

Reports to: Head of Research

Job purpose: To develop research projects and protocols, undertake research and evaluate outcomes in accordance with BACP's strategy. To positively promote research awareness, facilitate and actively encourage research into the counselling professions.

Financial: n/a

Staff: n/a

Other: BACP departments and third parties. Society for Psychotherapy Research (SPR), the Talking Therapies Task Force, academic contacts and links with researchers within the field nationally and internationally.

Principal accountabilities:

1. Monitor, analyse and interpret developments within the field of counselling and psychotherapy research, identifying trends and debates, to support the creation and delivery of BACP's research strategy.
2. Identify, develop, appraise and disseminate information on counselling research to members and the wider counselling professions to support practice and improve standards.
3. Undertake research projects (internal, external and commissioned research) that contribute to the evidence base, write research reports and contribute to the preparation of funding bids to contribute to the evidence base.
4. Develop effective relationships and collaborations and represent BACP by liaising with relevant key groups to contribute to building the profile of the organisation.
5. Disseminate research through a range of written materials and conference or event presentations to contribute to the evidence base.
6. Analyse and interpret evidence and contribute to the preparation of high quality timely responses to policy issues and consultation exercises from Government and other external bodies to support the Head of Research in ensuring that BACP's responses to such exercises are robust, credible and evidence-based.

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7. Respond to students, practitioners and academics with enquiries and signposting to promote the development of research capacity in the field of counselling and psychotherapy. Maintain, develop and evaluate services provided to support and encourage practice-based research, and improve standards.
8. Share and communicating research expertise with colleagues to support and develop research skills across the department.
9. Manage the timely delivery of BACP funded research projects, acting as point of contact and providing support to ensure completion to agreed deadlines and within agreed budgets.
10. Identify opportunities for research funding; drafting and submitting funding applications.
11. Take the lead in designing and developing programmes of research; overseeing projects including mentoring and supervising relevant project staff as part of these projects, (including but not limited to research methods, statistics analysis and data presentation), all as agreed with the Head of Research.

BACP Principal accountability:

- To be a BACP ambassador by upholding and demonstrating our values at every opportunity, through verbal, written and face to face communication.

Context:

Operating environment: The department currently engages in a wide range of both internal facing and external facing activity, although it should be noted that these are linked - our internal activity influences external activity and vice versa. Broadly, the purpose of the internal facing activity is to provide research expertise to other BACP departments. The external facing activity of the department involves a wide range of work aimed at ensuring that members and practitioners have access to high-quality research relevant to practice and to services that support their own research. The department also works with a number of leading academic partners on large-scale projects in line with BACP's strategy.

Framework and boundaries: BACP policies and procedures, research methods, research committee, BACP board

Organisation: See org chart

Relationships:

Direct reports: None.

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Manager: Monthly one-to-one meetings; regular informal catch up on an ad hoc basis both in person and by phone/email; team meetings, usually monthly; team strategy away days at least three times per year.

Other contacts: Linking with other BACP departments and external organisations such as (but not limited to) Policy and Public Affairs department, Membership Engagement department,

Knowledge and experience:

- In-depth knowledge of research methodologies and experience of undertaking and disseminating research;
- Ideally holding or working towards a relevant PhD, for example Social Sciences.
- Experience of conducting systematic literature searching and reviewing, ideally to PRISMA guidelines.
- Ability and experience of researching, analysing and summarising information, statistical data and complex issues into a clear, concise, accurate and accessible form.
- Excellent critical appraisal and analytical skills demonstrating a high attention to detail and level of accuracy.
- Excellent communication skills both written and verbal
- Enthusiasm for research with the ability to communicate research effectively to researchers and non-researchers alike
- Excellent planning and organisational skills; an ability to work on own initiative, to organise and prioritise work to agreed deadlines.
- IT literate; experience of using SPSS to analyse data.
- An understanding of counselling and psychotherapy research
- Excellent team player with the ability to work flexibly.
- Extensive understanding of counselling and psychotherapy research.
- Record of authoring peer reviewed research journal articles is desirable.

Job challenge:

The most challenging aspects of the role are centred around the competing demands that occur as a result of working on a wide variety of projects. The reactive nature of some of the tasks can also be challenging to manage

Additional information

For the role linked to the Professional Standards department this is an additional principal accountability

- Undertake systematic research literature searching and reviewing to support the development of BACP competence frameworks.