

Job description

Position:	Social Researcher - Degree Apprenticeship - BSc (Hons)
Reporting to:	Research Officer
Salary:	Year 1 £22,000 / Year 2 £23,100 / Year 3 £24,255 / Year 4 £25,468 plus excellent benefits
Contract type:	Four Year Fixed-Term Contract
Hours per week:	37.5 hours per week (with 20% of this time spent on studying) and, with hybrid working, those hours can be worked any time between 7am – 7pm. Core working hours are 10am – 3pm. For this role, 2 days per week in the office will be required in line with our hybrid working framework.

The Health Foundation

We are an independent charity committed to bringing about better health and health care for people in the UK. The Foundation's strategic plan for 2023-25 sets out an ambitious and compelling vision with three strategic priorities that guide our work to build a healthier UK. These strategic priorities are: improving people's health and reducing inequalities, supporting radical innovation and improvement in health and care services, and providing evidence and analysis to improve health and social care policy.

By valuing our health as an asset, investing in projects to improve health and care services and focusing on the wider factors that shape our health and drive inequalities, we can build a healthier nation.

Background

The Foundation seeks to achieve its mission through a combination of traditional grant-making activity, commissioning of research and fellowships, in-house research and data analytics, and a range of related activities to support individuals to stay well, support staff in the service to improve care and support policy-makers to make better policy decisions.

Research Team

Research is central to the work of the Health Foundation and comprises a mix of in-house and externally awarded and commissioned programmes. The research team is responsible for running a varied and ambitious portfolio of externally commissioned research and evaluation work, which places a strong emphasis on building the evidence base for improving people's health and reducing inequalities, supporting radical innovation and improvement in health and care services, and providing evidence and analysis to improve health and social care policy.

The research team provide expert support across the Foundation, working with the lead staff responsible for developing programmes of work, to understand and develop key research questions and support the delivery of our strategic priorities.

The research team is a supportive and inclusive team, where each member is valued and encouraged to thrive. Whether it's offering guidance on complex projects or lending a listening ear during challenging times, the team is committed to fostering a culture of support, collaboration and community.

We aim for the research and evaluation work we commission to have a wide impact on policy and practice and influence the future direction and planning of the Health Foundation's work. The portfolio encompasses independent evaluations, evidence reviews, original research awards, and knowledge mobilisation activities to explore what works to improve health, health care and social care.

Social Research Degree Apprenticeship

The Social Research Degree Apprenticeship is a four-year apprenticeship programme which offers a first of its kind opportunity to gain real experience working on impactful projects, while gaining a bespoke undergraduate degree in social research. Over the course of the Social Research degree apprenticeship, you will undertake the Level 6 applied research standard including attaining a BSc honours degree with the University of Kent. Apprentices will be paid a salary and will not pay tuition fees.

As part of your degree, your teaching will be a mixture of online and face-to-face teaching with a residential week each year at the University of Kent in Canterbury. Please note that most learning will take place virtually.

About your BSc research degree:

- This is the UK's first ever bespoke applied social research undergraduate degree apprenticeship. You will develop transferable and applied knowledge, skills and behaviours that will set you up for a long career in modern social research. The course will cover a broad range of contemporary quantitative and qualitative social research methods and skills, alongside how they can be applied to bring about real-world change and help government and organisations make better decisions.
- This includes, but is not limited to: how to collect and use data for analysis in a range of different social contexts; how to design impactful research projects that could inform some of society's most pressing questions; how to make use of modern social research software that will also bring you transferrable skills in coding; and you will have the opportunity to undertake an independent research project in an area of relevant interest to you.
- You will spend minimum of 20% of your time on off-job (academic) training.
- You will undertake an End-Point Assessment (EPA) at the end of the scheme, which you will need to pass in order to complete your apprenticeship. The End Point Assessment tests the Knowledge, Skills and Behaviours required of a Social Researcher and as approved by the [Institute for Apprenticeships](#).

The apprenticeship will begin in September 2024.

Apprenticeship Eligibility

- You must not be undertaking other funded further or higher education programmes/qualifications (such as another apprenticeship or a degree) after 31 August 2024.
- You should not apply if you hold a degree which contained a substantial social research component. excluding A-levels or equivalent.

- No prior work experience is needed for this role.

Qualifications

- Have a minimum of five GCSE (including Maths and English at grade C or equivalent)
- Have a minimum of 96 UCAS points under the 2017 tariff point system (e.g., CCC at A Level or equivalent qualification, not including General Studies) (or expected to achieve by August 2024)

For more information, please visit the following link on the University of Kent website:
<https://www.kent.ac.uk/global-lifelong-learning/apprenticeships/level-6-social-researcher>

Job Purpose

The Social Research Degree Apprentice will be based and hosted in the Research Team but will undertake rotations in other teams. The aim of this is to develop the varied knowledge, skills and expertise required for a social research career and gain experience of the role of research in a variety of contexts, such as policy making, and quality improvement.

Apprentice Social Researchers will spend 80% of their working week alongside colleagues in the Research, Policy & Data Analytics Teams, with the remaining 20% spent on academic work. The role at the Health Foundation will involve:

- Applying research concepts to problems in health and social care;
- Undertaking data collection using qualitative and quantitative research techniques
- Interpreting and deriving insights from qualitative, quantitative and secondary analytical and research outputs
- Communicating findings through reports, presentations, blogs and social media.
- Organising and leading meetings, using digital collaboration tools to work with colleagues.
- Working with commercial and academic teams and contractors to commission and deliver social research.
- Project managing smaller research projects and managing discrete workstreams within larger studies.

Apprentices will be supported to develop their skills and knowledge. They will mainly help colleagues on projects but will be encouraged to take responsibility for smaller pieces of work as they progress.

Wider contribution

As with other staff at the Foundation, the postholder will be expected to contribute to corporate activities and initiatives, such as staff meetings, cross-Foundation leadership and development programmes and other corporate projects as necessary. The postholder will similarly be expected to play a role in supporting and helping to develop the Research team to enable it to improve its effectiveness.

The post holder will at all times aim to embed our key behaviours – Commitment to diversity and inclusion, Working together, Achieving impact, Discovering and learning – in all aspects of their day-to-day delivery in the role.

The Health Foundation values equity, diversity, and inclusion, and welcomes applications from different backgrounds. For this role, we particularly encourage applications from diverse backgrounds. Please let us know how we can support your health conditions, neurodivergence, disabilities and/or accessibility requirements through adjustments.

Candidates should have the right to work in the UK at the time of appointment.

Person specification

	Criteria	Essential (E) or Desirable (D)	Assessment Stage
Behaviour	Commitment to Diversity and Inclusion - Commitment to equality and diversity in all aspects of the Foundation's activities and service delivery.	E	Interview
Behaviour and skills	Working together - Excellent interpersonal and team working skills with the ability to build strong productive relationships with stakeholders	E	Interview
Behaviour and experience	Achieving impact - Experience of working within a busy team while working under pressure and managing competing priorities	E	Interview
Behaviour and experience	Discovering and Learning - Experience and enthusiasm for learning, discovering and improving processes in a busy work environment	E	Application Interview
Behaviour	Interest in undertaking a role which can improve people's lives. An interest in, and a desire to contribute to the improvement of health and health care in the UK	D	Application Interview
Education	Have a minimum of five GCSE (including Maths and English at grade C or equivalent) Have a minimum of 96 UCAS points under the 2017 tariff point system (e.g., CCC at A Level or equivalent qualification, not including General Studies) (or expected to achieve by August 2024)	E	Application
Skills and abilities	Solid organisational, prioritisation and time management skills.	E	Interview
Skills and abilities	Ability to understand and explain complex information verbally and in writing	E	Application Interview
Skills and abilities	Ability to solve problems, establishing issues and advantages and disadvantages of different options	E	
Skills and abilities	Ability to work independently and as part of a team working towards a common goal	E	Interview
Skills and abilities	Ability to think critically and question things	E	
Skills and abilities	Strong IT skills including knowledge of Microsoft Office, including Microsoft Office, Excel and Outlook	E	Application
	Flexibility to travel within the UK	D	

